



Communiqué

27 January 2012

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 20 January 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Practitioner audits

The Board reminds pharmacists that during the last week of January 2012, AHPRA will begin the practitioner audits. A sample group of pharmacists has been randomly selected by the AHPRA IT system for the Board's pilot audit of the following mandatory registration standards:

- criminal history (via CrimTrac)
- recency of practice
- continuing professional development and
- professional indemnity insurance.

Pharmacists have been notified that they are being audited in a letter, which also outlines what they need to do to comply. The audit will be conducted over a three month period. It will be a pilot for other health professions and will identify any areas where changes are necessary in the system. Further information and FAQs are available on the Board's website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards/Audit-Pilot.aspx.

Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services

The Board has published an Advertising Fact Sheet and a FAQ Sheet for pharmacists on its website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au). These are available on the Board's homepage under the heading of 'latest news'.

Prescribing Competencies Framework

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is coordinating the Prescribing Competencies Framework project. Pharmacy organisations have been requested to make submissions and pharmacists also have the opportunity to make individual submissions about the competencies that are essential for safe and effective prescribing. You can provide feedback on the framework by completing an online survey available [here](#).¹

All feedback from organisations and individuals will be collated for consideration in the revision of the draft. The draft will then be updated and reviewed by the project's Expert Reference Group and the Advisory Group prior to final sign off, with anticipated completion by May 2012.

Stephen Marty
Chair
27 January 2012

¹ <http://surveys.nps.org.au/s3/Health%20Professionals%20Prescribing%20Competencies>