



## Summary of changes to revised registration standards and CPD guidelines for pharmacists

30 October 2015

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) has published the following revised standards and guidelines, which come into effect on 1 December 2015:

- [Registration standard: Continuing professional development \(CPD\)](#)
- [Guidelines on continuing professional development](#)
- [Registration standard: Recency of practice \(ROP\)](#)
- [Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements](#), and
- [Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration](#).

Changes to note are highlighted below to assist pharmacists in complying with the requirements.

*Registration standard: Continuing professional development and Guidelines on continuing professional development*

- The standard maintains the annual requirement of 40 CPD credits, and continues to specify the Board's current limit on Group 1 activities (this has been rephrased to state the minimum amount of Group 2 and Group 3 activities to be undertaken, to improve clarity).
- The standard introduces a requirement that all pharmacists develop a CPD plan on an annual basis, which will assist in identifying areas in need of further development. Further guidance on developing a CPD plan will be provided in revised FAQ on CPD which will be published by the Board in the coming weeks.
- The standard specifies that pharmacists must maintain CPD records for a minimum of three full CPD periods.
- The CPD guidelines provide additional guidance on:
  - development of a CPD plan
  - the additional responsibilities when a pharmacist chooses to undertake non-accredited CPD
  - the need to maintain competency in the two universal domains of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia
  - CPD records to be kept, and evidence of CPD undertaken which may be required by the Board
  - temporary absence from practice, and
  - the references to other publications which provide additional guidance for pharmacists to assist them in meeting the Board's CPD requirements.

*Registration standard: Recency of practice*

- The standard includes an additional option for applicants to meet the minimum practice requirements (150 hours during the previous 12 months, in addition to the current option of 450 hours during the previous three years). This will make it easier for applicants to demonstrate recency of practice, however the Board is of the view that this will not impact on protection of the public.
- The standard specifies that the Board considers that practice in Australia or New Zealand meets the requirements of the standard, and that consideration on a case-by-case basis will be given to whether practice in other countries also meets the requirements of the standard.

*Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements*

- The standard does not include a requirement for preceptors to have undertaken accredited training, and instead requires preceptors to have suitable relevant training or experience. It directs preceptors to the Board's published guidance for preceptors for further information.
- The standard includes additional requirements for supervised practice when undertaken concurrently across multiple training sites, to facilitate the achievement of suitable training outcomes for interns.
- A number of definitions have been added to the standard to improve clarity.

*Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration*

- The standard continues to establish the Board's requirements for examinations for eligibility for general registration, with minor changes such as:
  - specification of the examination(s) to be undertaken by provisional and limited registrants
  - inclusion of a definition for each of the different examinations
  - inclusion of a reference to the Oral Examination Candidate Guide published by the Board which provides further information about the oral examination structure and process, and
  - inclusion of a reference to the Australian Pharmacy Council who conducts the written examination on behalf of the Board, and publishes information regarding this examination on its website.