From pharmacy student to intern pharmacist

Webinar

6 September 2017
Meet today’s presenter

Mr Brett Simmonds
Chair –
Notifications Committee
and Deputy Chair –
Pharmacy Board of Australia
Today’s webinar will cover

• Roles of the Pharmacy Board of Australia and AHPRA
• Requirements for provisional registration
• The process of the internship year in preparation for general registration
• Introduction to the registration examinations
• Obligations of a registered pharmacist
• Board resources for interns and pharmacists
In 2010 the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) came into effect.

For the first time in Australia, 14 health professions are regulated by nationally consistent legislation under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).
Pharmacist regulator

Pharmacy Board of Australia

- Practitioner registration
- Registration standards, codes and guidelines
- Notifications (complaints)
- Sets supervised practice and examination requirements
- Approves programs of study
Protection of the public
Health practitioner regulator

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

- Supports the 14 National Boards
- Point of contact
- Manages registration and renewal
- Maintains register of practitioners
- Manages investigations into professional conduct, performance or health
- Delivers oral examination
- Office in each state and territory
Other stakeholders and regulators

- Universities
- Australian Pharmacy Council (APC)
- State and territory pharmacy premises authorities
- Drugs and poisons units
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
- Pharmacy member organisations/associations
- Professional indemnity insurance providers ... etc
Pharmacy Board of Australia
Regulating Australia’s pharmacists
Supported by AHPRA

Check your health practitioner is registered
Practitioner’s family name or registration number
Pharmacist
Tips for using the register
Cancelled health practitioner register
Search
Advanced search

Going to graduate soon?
Learn more about internship requirements.
Pathway to general registration
Information video
Intern and preceptor guide

Report concerns about a health practitioner
Make a complaint
Find out more about the complaints process
Make a mandatory notification

Latest news
Communiqué from the Board
The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.
03/08/2017 | Read full article

Revised guidance published - Compounding of sterile injectable medicines
Revised guidance about the compounding of sterile injectable medicines has been published today but will not take effect until 1 February 2018.
01/08/2017 | Read full article

Quarterly registration data released
The National Board has released its quarterly registration data.
17/07/2017 | Read full article

Now available for download:
Annual report summary for pharmacists

Plan your CPD:
See our planning tools and webinar

Watch our information video for students and graduates

What’s happening
Keep up to date on Board activities.
Read our communiques

Approved programs of study
Find training programs which lead to registration.
Search approved programs of study

Student registration
Find out what you need to know.
Internships

Diagram on the pathway to general registration

- Complete pharmacy degree (Board-approved pharmacy program of study)
  - Apply for provisional registration (Granted by Board)
  - Nominate preceptor and premises (Approved by Board)
  - Enrol in intern training program (With an accredited provider)
Internship requirements summarised at *Registration > Internships*
Internship video on the website
Provisional registration

- Apply online at Registration > Internships (click on online application link which takes you to AHPRA website)
- Apply 4-6 weeks before graduating
- English language skills and criminal history will be checked, and you will need to commit to holding professional indemnity insurance
- **Must** hold provisional registration **before** starting supervised practice
Graduate Applications

About to graduate as a health practitioner?

Students due to complete or have recently completed an Australian approved program of study can smooth the path from study to work by following the three steps to registration for graduates. To help you understand the application process and what information is needed, please refer to the following pages:

- Other Graduate Application Types
- Supporting Documentation for Graduate Applications
- Registration Standards
- Check Application Status
- Graduate Applications for Registration FAQ
- Student Registration
- Provisional to General Information Audit
Registration Standards

Registration standards define the requirements that applicants, registrants or students need to meet to be registered. The Pharmacy Board of Australia has developed the following registration standards:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document name</th>
<th>PDF</th>
<th>Accessible format</th>
<th>Date of effect</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Criminal History Registration Standard</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>Word version</td>
<td>1 July 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>(349KB)</td>
<td>(674KB,DOCX)</td>
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English language skills

• Has changed from 1 July 2015 with introduction of new standard
• Need to meet the ELSRS when you apply for provisional registration
• Four pathways to meet the standard
• Increased examination providers and flexibility
Which one of the English language competency pathways do you meet?

1. **Combined secondary and tertiary education pathway**
   - Two years of secondary* and your tertiary education

2. **Extended education pathway**
   - Six years education; secondary, vocational and tertiary education*

3. **Primary language pathway**
   - This is a declaration that English is your primary language All primary, secondary and your tertiary education*

4. **English language test pathway**
   - Meet the minimum requirements of one of the four approved English language tests

*Taught and assessed in English in a recognised country- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America
Was your relevant health qualification taught and assessed in English?

- **YES**
  - Was your relevant health qualification obtained in one of the recognised countries?
    - **YES**
      - Were at least two years of your secondary education taught and assessed in English in one of the recognised countries?
        - **YES**
          - Have you completed at least six years (full time equivalent) continuous education, including your relevant health qualification, taught and assessed solely in English in one of the recognised countries?
            - **YES**
              - You meet the standard through the combined secondary and tertiary education pathway.
            - **NO**
              - You meet the standard through the extended education pathway.
        - **NO**
          - You meet the standard through the primary language pathway.
    - **NO**
      - You will need to take an English language test to demonstrate that you meet the standard through the English language test pathway.
- **NO**
  - Is English your primary language?
    - **YES**
      - Was all of your primary and secondary education taught and assessed in English in one of the recognised countries?
        - **YES**
          - You meet the standard through the primary language pathway.
        - **NO**
          - You will need to take an English language test to demonstrate that you meet the standard through the English language test pathway.
    - **NO**
      - You will need to take an English language test to demonstrate that you meet the standard through the English language test pathway.
Criminal history

• Required to declare your criminal history when you apply for provisional registration

• Board decides whether a criminal history is relevant to the practice of a pharmacist based on the 10 factors listed in the standard

• Applications with criminal history may take longer to process
Professional indemnity insurance

• Appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements must be in place
• Personal insurance cover
• Employer’s insurance – confirm with employer
• Practice outside of employment arrangements will not be covered by employer’s policy
Supervised practice

- 1824 hours to be eligible to apply for general registration
- Preceptor, site and start date to be approved by Board before starting
  - Also need to submit a new application if any of the following approved arrangements change:
    - Start date
    - Number of hours (if extension sought)
    - Your preceptor
    - Your site (pharmacy location)
- Enrol in accredited intern training program
Approved preceptors (supervisors) must:

• Hold general registration and have practised as a pharmacist for a minimum of 12 months
• Not have conditions placed on his/her registration that would impact on the supervised practice of the intern
Before starting your internship you must:

hold
provisional registration
and have your
preceptor,
site and start date
approved by the Board
Check online register of practitioners

Register of practitioners

If a health practitioner has the word "registered" in the column "registration status" they are registered and are legally able to practise within the scope of their registration. The exceptions to this are:

1. practitioners who have a 'non-practising' status.
2. practitioners who have their registration suspended.
3. practitioners who have a condition on the registration which stops them from practising.

More information about the terms used in the registers can be found in the Glossary.

Registration expiry date

Under the National Law, practitioners remain registered while their registration renewal application is being processed. Practitioners may be correctly displayed as 'registered', but have a registration expiry date that has passed. The registration expiry date is adjusted as applications that meet the requirements of the National Law are processed.

Registration due?

Practitioners can check online whether their renewal application has been received. If AHPRA has received their application they can continue to practise within the scope of their registration while the application is processed.

Registration Details

You can go back to search results, refine your search criteria or start a new search.

Health Practitioner: Miss [redacted]

Personal Details

Sex: Female
Languages (in addition to English): [redacted]
Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours), Monash University, Australia

Principal Place of Practice

Suburb: [redacted]
State: VIC
Profession: Pharmacist
Registration number: 
Date of first Registration: 09/01/2017
Registration status: Registered
Registration expiry date: 08/01/2018

Under the National Law, registrants are able to practise while their renewal application is being processed. Practitioners also remain registered for one month after their registration expiry date. If the practitioner’s name appears on the Register, they are registered and can practise (excepting practitioners with a Registration Type of ‘non-practising’ or those with a condition which stops them from practising, or where their registration is suspended).

Conditions:
- None

Undertakings:
- None

Reprimands:
- None

Registration Type: Provisional

Endorsements:
- None

Notations - General:
- None

Notations - Registration Requirements:
- The Practitioner will only practise with supervision by a Board approved supervisor or delegate:

Approval from: 16 February 2017
Preceptor: 
Hours: 1824
Approved Site:
During your internship you must:

• Meet the requirements of the *Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements*
  – 1824 hours
  – Minimum period of 152 hours to count
  – Minimum of 80 hours in 4 consecutive weeks
  – Maximum of 180 hours in 4 consecutive weeks
  – Number of interns does not exceed the total number of supervising pharmacists
During your internship you must:

- Record your hours on *Weekly record of supervised practice hours* form (SPWR-60)
  - Must be filled out and signed by preceptor *each week* and then included in your application for general registration

- Pass the Board’s Registration Examinations which are detailed in the *Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration*
Examinations for general registration

- Examinations assess an individual’s ability to competently and safely practise as a pharmacist
  - Written examination
  - Oral examination
- Examinations are conducted on behalf of the Board
- Each of the examinations have set eligibility criteria
Written exam

• Administered by the Australian Pharmacy Council
  – All written exam enquiries to them
• Pre-requisite for oral exam
• 40% of intern hours to be eligible (730 hours)
• Held 6 times per year (Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec)
  – Check your hours meet 40% requirement
  – See www.pharmacycouncil.org.au for dates & a guide including sample questions
  – Will need your provisional registration number
• Calculations, forensic/ethics & clinical questions
• Pass result valid for 18 months
Oral exam (practice)

• Assessment of competence that requires candidates to demonstrate that they can competently apply their knowledge and skills to situations that may be encountered in practice

• Final assessment of competence to practise as a pharmacist in Australia
Oral exam (practice)

• Nationally consistent exam held over the same period, three times per year (Oct, Feb, Jun) in every jurisdiction
  – Exam questions are identical in every jurisdiction allowing for variations in state legislation
• Administered by AHPRA for the Board
• 75% of intern hours to be eligible by first scheduled day of examination period (1,368 hours)
• Must hold a current pass in written exam prior to the examination application closing date (i.e. results cannot be pending)
Oral exam (practice)

- Applicants who do not meet the entry criteria by the published oral examination application closing date are ineligible.
- You must sit in the jurisdiction where you did your supervised practice.
- See schedule of oral examinations for exam and closing dates on the Board website:
Oral exam (practice)

• APOE-60 must be lodged before the application closing date
• Late applications will not be accepted. Payment in full
• Candidates advised of the time and place by post or email two weeks before the examination period
• Refer to the Pharmacy oral examination (practice) candidate guide:
Format

• Two examiners (observer may also be present)
• Approximately 45 minutes duration
• 4 parts:
  – Part 1 Medication knowledge and counselling (10 mins)
  – Part 2 Primary healthcare (10 mins)
  – Part 3 Legal and ethical practice (5 mins)
  – Part 4 Problem solving and communication (20 mins)
Assessment considers ...

• Has the patient been dealt with in a way that will minimise any potential risk to which he or she may be exposed?

• Has the patient's therapy been optimised?
  – e.g. Has the patient been supplied with sufficient advice and information to ensure that he or she knows how to take or use the medication effectively?

• Has the patient been caused any harm by an action, including an omission, or by a decision of the candidate?

• Has the candidate demonstrated their ability to practise legally and professionally?
Applying for initial general registration

• As a graduate with provisional registration you are eligible to apply for general registration when you have:
  – passed the required written and oral examinations
  – successfully completed your period of supervised practice which includes satisfactory completion of an accredited ITP

• Application must include all supporting documents to be considered complete

• Application will be considered against the Board’s registration standards
Your ITP provider will have checked off on your ...

- Continuing professional development
  - Learning plan
  - 40 CPD credits
- First Aid certificate
- Extemporaneous dispensing exercises
Obligations of a registered pharmacist

Under the National Law, pharmacists have obligations they must meet in order to be registered and while practising.

This infographic shows the obligations of a registered pharmacist.

*See section 130(3) of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, for other events requiring written notice to the Board.
Impairment

- Pharmacists and pharmacy interns are human.
- We get sick, we may develop a significant mental or physical illness.
- We need to look after ourselves, as well as others.
- It’s important that you seek help and support when you need it.
Impairment

- A physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence) that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect your capacity to practise the profession.

- You will be required to declare any impairments at application for provisional and general registration, and at renewal.

- If you have an impairment, the Board requires the following information:
  - A description of the impairment, including severity
  - Advice on how you manage this impairment, with a letter from your treating physician.
Final advice

• Ensure your provisional registration and supervised practice has been approved **before** you start your supervised practice

• Ensure your applications are **complete** with all supporting documentation to avoid delays

• Submit new application for approval of supervised practice if changing site and/or preceptor **before** change occurs

• Check Board website for relevant news or information

• Lodge applications for exams **before** closing date

• Ensure we have your **current** contact details

• Contact AHPRA with your queries - 1300 419 495
More information

- Intern pharmacist and preceptor guide
- Extemporaneous dispensing procedures
- Sample community/hospital training plans
- FAQ for pharmacy interns and preceptors
- Continuing professional development for pharmacists and interns FAQ
- Board’s guidelines for pharmacists

www.pharmacyboard.gov.au
Your questions

• How long can I delay applying for provisional registration after finishing uni?

• Can I start the ITP before I have organised my supervised practice?

• Can I take a break during my internship?

• Do I need to meet the English language requirements again at general registration?
End of webinar

www.pharmacyboard.gov.au