

## Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

## Summary

Supervised practice, which includes internship, is undertaking pharmacy practice under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who holds general registration (a preceptor), while the pharmacist is providing pharmacy services in pharmacy premises or other circumstances as determined by the Board. Interns must be registered by the Board to undertake the period of supervised practice required for initial general registration pursuant to clause 52(1)(b)(i) of the proposed National Law.

This standard also applies to a person who, after a period of more than three years in which they have not practised pharmacy or changed their area of practice, is required to undertake supervised practice as part of the process of meeting applicable requirements under the recency of practice standard.

## Scope of application

This standard applies to individuals who hold provisional registration to complete the requirements for general registration under the proposed national law, and to individuals who hold non-practising registration who wish to apply for general registration, to those applying for registration after not holding general registration for a period of three years or more and to those who are seeking to change their area of practice who are required to complete a period of supervised practice in accordance with the requirements specified in the Board's recency of practice standard.

## Requirements

1. The requirements for supervised practice are as follows:
  - a) For the purpose of clause 52(1)(b)(i) of the proposed National Law, the period of supervised practice to be undertaken for general registration is 1824 hours in the case of graduates of Australian or New Zealand pharmacy courses approved by the Board.
  - b) In the case of graduates of pharmacy courses conducted by an overseas course provider, provided that the qualification has been assessed and accepted by the accreditation authority as being comparable to Australian pharmacy qualifications, the period of supervised practice is to be determined in accordance with guidelines developed by the Board or, if delegated, the accreditation authority.
  - c) Graduates from Australian programs are not eligible to undertake supervised practice unless they have completed an accredited program which has been approved by the Board.
  - d) In the case of a person referred to in 1(a) and 1(b) above the supervised practice is to include satisfactory completion of an intern training program, unless the Board has given an exemption to this requirement.
  - e) In the case of persons who hold non-practising registration or who have not been registered for a period of three years or more and are applying for general registration or persons who do not meet the requirements of the recency of practice standard, any period of supervised practice will be determined by the Board.
2. Supervised practice must be undertaken under the following conditions:
  - a) each period of supervised practice is undertaken under the direction and/or supervision of a preceptor approved by the Board for a minimum period of 152 hours
  - b) it must be under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who holds general registration (not necessarily the approved preceptor)
  - c) supervised practice hours are undertaken regularly and consistently such that a minimum of 80 hours are undertaken in a period of four consecutive weeks
  - d) a maximum of 180 hours in a four consecutive week period may be counted as supervised practice hours
  - e) supervised practice hours may be undertaken from the date of commencement of supervised practice or from the date of publication of final results of an approved pharmacy program, whichever is later
  - f) at least 50 per cent of the supervised practice hours required in 2(a) must be undertaken in a community pharmacy or a hospital pharmacy department; and
  - g) supervised practice hours may only be undertaken in premises where the total number of interns does not exceed the total number of supervising pharmacists at any time.

3. To be approved as preceptor, a pharmacist must:
  - a) hold general registration
  - b) have held general registration and practised as a pharmacist in the area of practice where the supervised practice is to be conducted for a minimum of 12 months (unless the pharmacist has been registered for a shorter period and is approved by the Board to act as preceptor)
  - c) be practising in pharmacy premises or in other circumstances as determined by the Board
  - d) not have conditions placed on his/her general registration that would impact on the supervised practice of the intern; and
  - e) have attended within the previous three years preceptor training approved through the accreditation process approved by the Board.

## Definitions

An approved **preceptor** is a pharmacist responsible for the supervision of a person undertaking supervised practice either during undergraduate clinical training placements or during a period of supervised practice as part of the process leading to general registration.

**An intern training program** is a program or work integrated learning conducted by intern training providers and accredited by the accreditation authority and approved by the Board.

## References

The Board may issue guidelines to assist preceptors and those undertaking supervised practice.

The Board has published a 'Recency of practice' standard

## Review

With the exception of Requirement 3, this standard will commence on 1 July 2010 for individuals commencing a period of supervised practice after that date.

Requirement 3 of this standard will commence on 1 July 2013.

The Board will review this standard at least every three years.