



Communiqué

The thirteenth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 29 October 2010 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Guidelines

Consultation on the Board's draft 'Guidelines on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors' closed on 29 October 2010. The Board sincerely thanks all stakeholders and individuals who lodged submissions. The Board's Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee will consider all submissions before the Board finalises and publishes the guideline on its website in December 2010.

Lapsed registrants

The Board reminds pharmacists to renew their registration on time.

Under the National Law, pharmacists have a one-month 'grace period' after their registration is due when they can still practise. If they renew during this 'grace period' they will be required to pay a late fee as well as the registration renewal fee. However, under the National Law any practitioner who does not apply to renew their registration within one month of the due date will be removed from the Register of Pharmacists. The Board has no discretion to make exceptions.

To apply to register again, they must submit a new application and make a range of declarations of compliance with the Board's registration standards. Processing a new application for registration can take some time and involves extra costs. It involves criminal history checks and external verification of qualifications and identity.

Any practitioner who is not sure when their registration is due can check the Register of Pharmacists on the website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au - follow the links to check your name and registration status, including registration due date. Pharmacists can renew their registration online through the website.

Update on Western Australia

Western Australia joined the National Registration Scheme on 18 October 2010. Pharmacists registered in Western Australia on 17 October 2010 had their registration transitioned automatically to the national registration scheme. Pharmacists holding general registration are now entitled to practise anywhere in Australia.

Examinations

During October, staff of the state and territory AHPRA offices continued to conduct oral examinations for interns completing the requirements for initial general registration. Once the results of the examination are confirmed by the Board, candidates will be notified of their results. Successful

applicants will then be eligible apply for general registration with the AHPRA office in the capital city of their state or territory. To avoid processing delays, make sure the application includes all complete documentation required.

Accreditation of pharmacy programs

The Board considered Accreditation Notification Outcome reports for two new pharmacy programs from the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), the pharmacy accreditation authority. The Board approved courses from RMIT and the University of Queensland which are now published on the list of approved courses on the Board's website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au). Queries about these courses should be directed to the course providers.

Accreditation of intern training programs

The Board noted the accreditation of 2011 intern training programs by APC. These programs have been published on the APC website (www.pharmacycouncil.org.au).

Stephen Marty
Chair
17 November 2010