



# Communiqué

**8 March 2011**

A meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 25 February 2011 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

## Registration

The Board reviewed the renewal of registration process for pharmacists and initial general registration process for interns, after receiving concerns from pharmacists and interns about registration renewal and initial registration delays. The Board believes these delays are not acceptable and is working with AHPRA to implement changes. AHPRA has appointed a National Director, Business Improvement and Innovation to oversee necessary changes and improve services to registrants.

Important note: Incomplete applications from practitioners are a common cause of registration and renewal delays. The Board encourages all pharmacists to make sure their applications are complete and that they meet the Board's [registration standards](#) when they apply to renew or register. Online renewal should be the most efficient and effective method of renewal and forms and procedures will be reviewed to ensure improvements are achieved.

## Continuing professional development (CPD)

The Board's 'Continuing professional development registration standard' introduced on 1 July 2010 outlines the requirements for registered pharmacists who have general, provisional or limited registration and are required to complete 20 CPD credits for the period ending 30 September 2011. The Board's 'Guidelines on continuing professional development' provide further detail about the Board's CPD requirements. When undertaking CPD, particular information must be recorded by pharmacists to ensure that they can complete a declaration of compliance when applying to renew and to make sure satisfactory records of CPD are maintained and available for audit. This requirement is consistent with the other nine registered health professions.

The Board noted that it is now close to half way through the first 12 month CPD audit period under the national registration scheme. The Board reminds pharmacists to reflect on CPD requirements including:

- Have you effectively planned and undertaken appropriate CPD relevant to your scope of practice?
- If selected for audit, will your CPD records enable you to adequately demonstrate your participation in CPD consistent with the Board's CPD registration standard and guidelines?

Many practitioners continue to undertake accredited CPD and maintain their records through the providers of accredited CPD. This satisfies the requirements of the Board's CPD guidelines. Other practitioners are seeking alternative forms of (non-accredited) CPD activities as part of a self directed learning plan. As outlined in the CPD guidelines, detailed records of non-accredited activities must be maintained. Pharmacists should refer to the Board's [CPD guidelines](#).

### **Guidelines on practice-specific issues – Guideline 1 (List of References)**

The Board's Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee reviewed the list of references in Guideline 1 of the Board's 'Guidelines on practice specific issues.' These references must be readily accessible by pharmacists during the dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling processes. The Board considered the committee's recommendations and agreed to consult on proposed minor changes to the list of references and will publish a consultation paper in March 2011. Stakeholders are invited to make a submission on the proposals which will be published shortly on the Board website.

### **National Oral Examination**

The Board noted the progress in the preparations for the first National Oral Examinations that began in February 2011. The oral examination was conducted for the first time in a common format across all states and territories. The oral examinations are administered three times a year by the staff of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on behalf of the Board and conducted by examiners appointed by the Board. The Board wishes to acknowledge the work of its Examinations Committee, Examinations Working Group, the AHPRA staff and the examiners in the important function of ensuring competent pharmacists are registered to practise. Further information about the Board's oral examination process is published on the Board's website (<http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Internship.aspx>).

### **Student registration**

Student registration under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory begins for all pharmacy students this month. Information, including frequently asked questions for education providers and students will appear on the AHPRA website this month. Student registration under the national scheme aims to have minimal impact on students. However education providers are responsible for providing a list of enrolled students to AHPRA this month. Additional responsibilities are published on the website and in some states and territories represent a change from the form of student registration previously in place. The definition of education providers is also broad under the National Law and can include health services.

### **National Recommendation for User-applied Labelling Of Injectable Medicines, Fluids & Lines**

Health Ministers approved the implementation of the *National Recommendations for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines* (the *Labelling Recommendations*) in Australian hospitals on 12 November 2010. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has developed, and is making available, resources to assist States/Territories, hospitals and health professionals implement the *Labelling Recommendations*. These are available on the Commission's website ([www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)).

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
8 March 2011