



# Communiqué

**30 April 2012**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 20 April 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

## **Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners**

The Board is conducting a consultation on a minor amendment to the current *Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners*. The consultation paper is published on the Board's website ([www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx)). This consultation is limited to the addition of a paragraph concerning codes of ethics and does not extend to the remaining content of the Code of Conduct, which is due to be completed within three years of its initial publication (i.e. in 2013).

The Board proposes to amend the Code of Conduct by adding a paragraph on codes of ethics and the need for pharmacists to be guided by those codes relevant to their practice. The proposed paragraph is to be inserted after the *Overview* on page 1 of the Code of Conduct. The remaining content of the Code of Conduct has not been amended. The proposed addition is as follows:

### **Codes of Ethics**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia advises pharmacists to also be guided by a code of ethics relevant to their practice. The Board endorses the [Codes of Ethics for Pharmacists 2011](#) published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Ltd and the [Code of Ethics-February 2006](#) published by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Given the definition of practice as it applies to pharmacy, other codes of ethics may also be applicable to pharmacists' practice. Pharmacists are advised to ensure that in addition to complying with the *Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners* that they be guided by the code(s) of ethics relevant to their practice.

The Board invites interested stakeholders to provide their written comments on the draft amendment.

Your feedback can be emailed or posted to:

The Executive Officer

Pharmacy Board of Australia

**E-mail:** [pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au)

**Post:** GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

**Due date:** Close of business **Friday 22 June 2012.**

## **Memorandum of Understanding with the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand**

The Board and the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ) recognise the benefits of professional mobility made possible by the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement and the legislation giving effect to this arrangement in New Zealand and Australia. In

recognition of this, the Board and the PCNZ aim to, in so far as possible, establish “essentially equivalent” standards for the pharmacy profession which are consistent and equivalent. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to formalise the terms of this cooperation.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Chair of the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand.

### **Social media policy**

The Board provided input into a draft policy on social media which will be released shortly for public consultation. The policy confirms that health practitioners must abide by the relevant laws and their Board’s codes and guidelines when they use social media.

The policy includes advice that when using social media, registered pharmacists should comply with the National Law, *A Code of Conduct for Registered Health Practitioners* and the Board’s advertising guidelines. In particular, practitioners are advised:

- To meet their professional obligations
- To ensure that they do not breach their patient’s confidentiality or privacy
- To present information in an unbiased, evidence-informed context and not make unsubstantiated claims and
- Not use testimonials or purported testimonials.

The Board will invite feedback on the draft policy when it is released on behalf of all Boards.

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
30 April 2012