

Media release

27 September 2012

Pharmacists urged to renew registration online and on time

Pharmacists across Australia are reminded that their registration is due for renewal by 30 November.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is sending a series of emails to pharmacists, for whom an email address is known, reminding them to renew their registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board).

Board Chair Stephen Marty urged the 25,000 pharmacists due to renew their registration to do so online and on time.

'The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online, with 89% of pharmacists using this secure service last year,' Mr Marty said.

'Pharmacists should check that their contact email details are up to date so they receive renewal reminders from AHPRA. These reminders are confirmation that online renewal is open.'

To update your contact details held by AHPRA, go online at www.ahpra.gov.au, click online services, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID, included in AHPRA correspondence to practitioners, is not your registration number.

If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Mr Marty said pharmacists who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders from AHPRA or go online to 'opt out' of renewing.

This new online facility will provide the Board and AHPRA with better data on the number of pharmacists who choose to opt out of renewing their registration, to distinguish them from individuals who intend to renew, but do not do so on time. Using the 'opt out' service puts a stop to renewal reminders.

Mr Marty reminded the profession they risked not being able to work if they did not renew on time in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise pharmacy in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

'Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew online and on time,' Mr Marty said.

He advised pharmacists that when renewing their registration for the 2012-13 period, whether online or by paper application, that they may be randomly selected to take part in the second phase of a larger Practitioner Audit Pilot. Chiropractic and optometry are the other two professions taking part.

The selected practitioners will be audited for compliance against their Board's registration standards for criminal history, professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and continuing professional development (CPD).

In the case of pharmacists, their participation in CPD during the period of 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2012 will be audited.

'This second phase will run for about three months from October and the board is working with AHPRA and key stakeholders to ensure that participants will be able to gather the necessary evidence to provide to the audit team,' Mr Marty said.

Further information about the audit is available at www.ahpra.gov.au under *Registration*.

For more information

- Visit www.pharmacyboard.gov.au for FAQs on renewal
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200