



Communiqué

22 December 2014

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 12 December 2014 in Melbourne.

Pharmacy renewal now in late period

Pharmacists across Australia were reminded by AHPRA and the Board that their registration was due for renewal by 30 November 2014.

If pharmacists did not renew their registration on time, they can still renew until **31 December 2014**, but a late fee will apply. The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is [online](#).

Under the National Law¹, if registration is not renewed by 31 December 2014 registration will lapse. The name will be removed from the Register of Pharmacists. This means that the person must make a new application for registration. They will **not be able to practise** until their application has been finalised and their details added to the [online public register](#). This has serious implications for pharmacists who are owners of pharmacy businesses.

Pharmacists who do not want to renew their registration to keep practising can simply ignore the reminders from AHPRA or go online to 'opt out' of renewing. Using the 'opt out' service puts a stop to renewal reminders.

An FAQ about renewal is available on the [Pharmacy Board website](#).

Commencement of internships

Many new graduates commence an internship at this time of year. Interns and preceptors are reminded to ensure they comply with the Board's registration standards, including the *Supervised practice arrangements registration standard* and that

- interns lodge an [application for provisional registration](#)
- interns and preceptors complete and lodge an *Application for approval of supervised practice as a pharmacist*.

As an alternative to lodging a paper [application](#) for provisional registration, final year students could go [online](#) and lodge an application for provisional registration prior to completion of their approved program of study. All applicants are required to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail to complete their online application.

Supervised practice cannot be accumulated unless an intern holds provisional registration and has had their period of supervised practice approved by the Board **prior to starting their internship**. To determine whether provisional registration has been granted and supervised practice has been approved, check the [online register](#).

Any queries regarding provisional registration and approval of supervised practice can be directed to AHPRA by phoning 1300 419 495.

Audit of pharmacists

The 2014 audit of pharmacists is nearing completion and a report will be published on the AHPRA website once finalised. During 2015, AHPRA will continue to audit pharmacists' compliance with the Board's [registration standards](#). Audits of random samples of pharmacists will occur periodically throughout 2015 and

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

those pharmacists selected will be required to provide information demonstrating their compliance with the registration standards as declared when renewing their registration which was due by 30 November 2014.

The audit ensures that pharmacists are meeting the mandatory registrations standards and provide important assurance to the community and the Board.

Further information about the audit process can be accessed on the Board's [website](#).

Pharmacy Board Newsletter

An electronic newsletter providing an update on a range of Board activities and practice related issues was e-mailed in December to all registered pharmacists. Pharmacists who have not provided an e-mail address can do so through the [online services for practitioners](#). A copy of the newsletter is available on the Board's [website](#).

Compliments of the season

On behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, I extend best wishes and compliments of the season to all pharmacists and our stakeholders.

Stephen Marty
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
22 December 2014

[The Pharmacy Board of Australia](#) is the regulator of pharmacists in Australia and acts to protect the public by ensuring that suitably qualified and competent pharmacists are registered. The Board is responsible for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines for pharmacists and managing notifications (complaints) about pharmacists and pharmacy students. The Board does this through its powers under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The Board's work in regulating Australia's pharmacists in the public interest is underpinned by [regulatory principles](#), which encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation.*

**Except in NSW and QLD which have co-regulatory arrangements.*