



## Communiqué

**2 April 2015**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 20 March 2015 in Melbourne.

### **Pharmacy Board of Australia Newsletter – March 2015**

The Board published its March 2015 newsletter and e-mailed a copy to all registered pharmacists who have provided an e-mail address to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Pharmacists who have not provided an e-mail address or who want to update their contact details can do so by accessing the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and clicking on *Update your contact details*.

Enter your user ID, date of birth and password to access your account. Please note that your user ID is not your registration number. If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call 1300 419 495.

The [newsletter](#) is available on the Board's website under the *News and updates* section.

### **APP2015**

The Board participated in the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition 2015 (APP2015) during 13-15 March 2015. Board members and the Board's Executive Officer spoke with attendees at the Pharmacy Board of Australia stand. Pharmacists, interns and students raised a variety of queries which were clarified by the Board's representatives. Some of these are outlined below.

#### *Compounding of medicines*

As outlined in the March 2015 newsletter, the Board has published guidance and tools for pharmacists who compound medicines. These are available on the Board's website under the [Codes and guidelines](#) section.

Pharmacists should ensure that they are familiar with the guidance which takes effect from 28 April 2015. *Guideline 5 Extemporaneous dispensing (compounding)* from the Board's current *Guidelines for dispensing of medicines* applies until 27 April 2015.

The following additional tools have also been published:

- *Background on the regulation of compounding by pharmacists*, and
- *Professional practice profile for pharmacists undertaking complex compounding*.

For more information, refer to the [media release published on the Board's website](#).

#### *Requirements for renewal of general registration*

The Board's registration standards outline the requirements that must be met by pharmacists applying to renew their general registration by 30 November each year. The [registration standards are published on the Board's website](#).

When lodging a hardcopy or online application for renewal of registration, pharmacists must answer questions about whether they complied with the requirements outlined in registration standards and other requirements outlined in the National Law<sup>1</sup>.

The Board's Registration and Examination Committee considers the applications of pharmacists who declare they have not met all of the registration requirements. The applicant is invited to provide further information

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)

about the reasons why requirements were not met. Each application is considered by the committee on a case-by-case basis and takes into consideration the Board's obligation to protect the public.

#### *Requirements for general registration to be met by interns*

Queries were also received about the requirements that must be met by interns to be eligible for general registration.

#### **Supervised practice**

Board representatives provided advice about the obligation of preceptors and interns to ensure that interns have applied for, and been granted, provisional registration, and have had their supervised practice hours approved by the Board before internships may start. Searching the online [national register of practitioners](#) on the AHPRA website will confirm whether an intern holds provisional registration and has had their supervised practice hours approved by the Board. Failure to follow the requirements set out in the Board's registration standards may impact an intern's eligibility for general registration.

#### **Oral examination (practice)**

Board representatives also provided advice about the requirements for eligibility to undertake the Board's registration examinations and the oral examination process. The Board's registration standard for [examinations for general registration](#) is published on the Board's website.

Detailed information about the oral examination (practice) and the schedule of examinations is published on the Internships webpage under the *Registration* section on the Board's website. On this webpage, interns can access the *Pharmacy oral examination (practice) candidate guide* which includes a description of the examination, examination rules and appeals process.

The oral examination (practice) conducted by the Board is an assessment of competence that requires candidates to demonstrate they can competently apply their knowledge and skills to situations that may be encountered in practice. AHPRA administers the examinations in each state and territory on behalf of the Board.

To meet its obligations under the National Law, the Board has robust examination processes in place which are strictly followed to provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only competent pharmacists who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered.

The Board uses rigorous procedures to promote the validity and reliability of the examination and minimise the risk of unfairness to candidates. The examinations are conducted by trained examiners approved by the Board using examination material developed by skilled individuals that has been validated by experienced pharmacists from community practice, hospital practice and pharmacy academia. This is to ensure that examination material of a consistent standard is used by examiners.

#### *Matters not regulated by the Board*

Some of the queries raised by conference attendees are managed by other regulatory bodies and the Board representatives provided clarification about who to contact. These included matters about:

- the regulation of drugs and poisons which is the province of the drugs and poisons unit of the local state or territory health department, and
- requirements for pharmacy premises which are the province of the pharmacy approval authority in the state or territory where a pharmacy is located. A [list of state and territory pharmacy approval authorities](#) is available on the Board's website under the *About* section.

#### **Public consultation on guidelines closes 1 May 2015**

The Board is currently consulting on the following revised guidelines:

- *Guidelines for dispensing of medicines*
- *Guidelines on practice-specific issues*
- *Guidelines on dose administration aids and staged supply of dispensed medicines*<sup>2</sup>
- *Guidelines for proprietor pharmacists*<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Currently titled *Guidelines on specialised supply arrangements*

The consultation paper is published under [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website.

Consultation will close on 1 May 2015 and the community, stakeholders, pharmacists and other health practitioners are welcome to make a submission.

#### **Security tip – keep your web browser updated**

AHPRA and the National Boards are making changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

From early April 2015, anyone using Internet Explorer version 6 (or an older version) to view the Board's website is likely to experience difficulty accessing web pages and online services.

To avoid an interruption to service, we recommend you [upgrade to the newest version of Internet Explorer immediately](#). It is available for free from Microsoft.

If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience.

Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

William Kelly  
Acting Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
2 April 2015

*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.

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<sup>3</sup> Currently titled *Guidelines on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors*