



Communiqué

28 April 2015

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 17 April 2015 in Melbourne.

Compounding of medicines

The Board's *Guidelines for compounding of medicines* (the guidelines) take effect today, with the exception of one section that has been postponed for three months.

Postponement

The Board announced last week that the implementation of the expiry of compounded parenteral medicines section in the guidelines has been postponed.

This means that the *Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines* section of the guidelines does not come in to effect today, and practitioners do not need to follow this guidance for now.

The guidelines were published on the Board's website in early March to allow pharmacists to become familiar with the content before implementation.

The Board recently received further feedback and information on its guidance about the expiry of compounded medicines that needs further investigation and review.

The Board will review the information and seek further views over the next three months while working closely with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and other stakeholders.

To reflect this decision, the guidelines and FAQ have been updated.

FAQ

The Board published frequently asked questions (FAQ) to provide pharmacists and the public with additional information and clarification on a range of issues relating to the compounding of medicines. An email was sent out to all pharmacists about publication of the FAQ.

The FAQ, published on the [FAQ and Fact Sheets](#) page of the Board's website, should be considered alongside the Board's *Guidelines on compounding of medicines* (the guidelines), any documents referred to in the guidelines and the *Background on the regulation of compounding* by pharmacists found on the [Codes and guidelines](#) page.

The *Guidelines for compounding of medicines* were subject to wide-ranging consultation and replace Guideline 5 *Extemporaneous dispensing (compounding)* from the Board's *Guidelines for dispensing of medicines*. Guideline 5 is in effect until 27 April 2015.

Accessing the national register of practitioners

The online [national register of practitioners](#) has accurate, up-to-date information about the registration status of all registered health practitioners in Australia. It is an important way the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) helps keep the public safe.

A copy of *Top tips: Using the register for public safety checks* can be downloaded from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) [website](#).

Large-scale employers can also enquire with AHPRA about the online subscription service where an employer can request the publically available registration details of multiple practitioners. On the [enquiry form](#), please select 'Online Services - Employer' in the drop down menu for 'category of enquiry'. After submitting your request, you will be contacted directly by an AHPRA staff member to validate your identity and eligibility to use the service.

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 medicines¹*
- *Guidelines for proprietor pharmacists².*

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.

Improving monitoring of conditions on practitioner registration

AHPRA has welcomed calls for stringent monitoring and swift detection of breaches in compliance by registered health practitioners with restrictions on their registration.

On 24 March 2015, the Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) published a report recommending a range of initiatives to strengthen monitoring and compliance in Queensland and the National Scheme.

The report's recommendations affirm the sweeping changes AHPRA has already initiated to strengthen its compliance and monitoring program.

AHPRA's detailed response to the OHO and the recommendations in the report is published in the [Corporate publications](#) section of AHPRA's website.

Since July 2014, health complaints management in Queensland for registered health practitioners has involved a partnership between National Boards, AHPRA and the OHO.

Improvements to compliance monitoring add to the overhaul of complaints management in Queensland that started in 2012. Recent initiatives include preparation for stricter drug and alcohol screening announced in February 2015, the appointment of a national compliance manager and stronger national coordination of the compliance function.

For more information, please read the [media release](#) on AHPRA's website.

William Kelly
Acting Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
28 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.*

¹ Currently titled *Guidelines on specialised supply arrangements*

² Currently titled *Guidelines on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors*