



Pharmacy Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2015

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Pharmacy Board of Australia's (the Board) minimum requirements for recency of practice for pharmacists to competently and safely provide services to the public.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to pharmacists applying for renewal of general registration and applicants for general registration, including practitioners changing registration type. It does not apply to applicants applying for or renewing non-practising, provisional or limited registration or to students.

What must I do?

To meet this standard you must have practised a minimum of:

- 450 hours in the three year period prior to applying for general registration or renewal of general registration, or
- 150 hours in the 12 month period prior to applying for general registration or renewal of general registration.

The Board considers that practice in Australia or New Zealand in your intended scope of practice meets the requirements of this standard. The Board will also give consideration on a case-by-case basis as to whether practice in other countries meets the requirements of this standard.

In addition to meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice, it is imperative that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

What does this mean for me?

When you apply for registration

When you apply for general registration as a pharmacist, you must meet this registration standard. This includes pharmacists who are applying to change their type of registration to general registration.

When you apply for renewal

When you apply to renew your general registration, you are required to declare whether you meet this registration standard.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

Evidence

You should maintain records of practice undertaken during the previous three full registration periods.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice after taking a break, and you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practise.

If you don't meet this standard, the Board or its delegate will determine what action you must undertake within a specified time frame and may include:

- a. a period of supervised practice
- b. continuing professional development which may

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- include education courses, and/or
- c. assessment of competence which may include:
 - i. oral examinations, and/or
 - ii. any other examinations or assessments.

To determine these requirement(s), the Board will consider the following information, which must be provided by you:

- a. when you last practised in Australia or New Zealand
- b. your intended and/or previous scope(s) of practice as a pharmacist in Australia, New Zealand and/ or in another jurisdiction
- c. your detailed practice history, and
- d. activities carried out since you last practised as a pharmacist, including any continuing professional development you may have done.

Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for pharmacists (section 41 of the National Law).

Knowingly making a false declaration is considered by the Board to be a serious professional conduct matter and may be dealt with by the Board through the disciplinary mechanisms available under the National Law. These mechanisms include the impositions of sanctions ranging from caution or reprimand, to suspension or cancellation of registration. It may also lead to criminal prosecution.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

More information

The Board may publish guidelines and/or further information to provide explanation about how to meet this standard.

Definitions

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a pharmacist in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes working in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients; working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles; and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Recent practice means having practised in one's intended scope of practice in Australia or New Zealand for at least 450 hours within the previous three years, or 150 hours within the previous 12 months.

Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

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Review

This standard will be reviewed at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 December 2015

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.