

Communiqué

2 November 2015

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 22 to 23 October 2015 in Perth.

Meetings in Perth

Early career pharmacist Q&A

The Board sponsored a meeting with early career pharmacists in Western Australia to coincide with its meeting in Perth. The event included a panel discussion involving four local pharmacists working in a variety of settings and a Board member on the future roles of pharmacists. It was also an opportunity for Board members to meet local pharmacists and discuss issues regarding the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) and local practice. The Board thanks the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Early Career Pharmacists Working Group WA for helping organise the event.

Fiona Stanley Hospital

Board members were invited to visit the newly-completed Fiona Stanley Hospital where they were welcomed by pharmacy department staff. They gained an insight into the delivery of pharmacy services at the facility, which included the use of robotics to optimise dispensary and pharmacy store workflows as well as contributing to medication safety in the clinical areas. Members also toured the intensive care unit at the facility which utilises an integrated electronic patient and medicines management record system.

Curtin University

Board members visited Curtin University's School of Pharmacy. Members viewed one of the university's simulation teaching laboratories, the model pharmacy and dispensary, which is used to help students prepare for practice.

Publication of revised standards and CPD guidelines for pharmacists

On 30 October, the Board published the following [revised standards and guidelines](#) for pharmacists, which come into effect on 1 December 2015:

- Registration standard: Continuing professional development (CPD)
- Guidelines on continuing professional development
- Registration standard: Recency of practice (RoP)
- Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements, and
- Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration.

Pharmacists holding general registration will need to meet the obligations of the revised CPD and RoP standards by the next registration renewal period on 30 November 2016.

Changes to note are highlighted below to help pharmacists comply with the requirements.

Registration standard: Continuing professional development and Guidelines on continuing professional development

- The standard maintains the annual requirement of 40 CPD credits, and continues to specify the Board's current limit on Group 1 activities (this has been rephrased to state the minimum amount of Group 2 and Group 3 activities to be undertaken, to improve clarity).
- The standard introduces a requirement that all pharmacists develop a CPD plan on an annual basis, which will assist in identifying areas in need of further development. Further guidance on developing a CPD plan will be provided in revised FAQ on CPD which will be published by the Board in the coming weeks.
- The standard specifies that pharmacists must maintain CPD records for a minimum of three full CPD periods.
- The CPD guidelines provide additional guidance on:
 - development of a CPD plan
 - the additional responsibilities when a pharmacist chooses to undertake non-accredited CPD
 - the need to maintain competency in the two universal domains of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia
 - CPD records to be kept, and evidence of CPD undertaken which may be required by the Board
 - temporary absence from practice, and
 - the references to other publications which provide additional guidance for pharmacists to assist them in meeting the Board's CPD requirements.

Registration standard: Recency of practice

- The standard includes an additional option for applicants to meet the minimum practice requirements (150 hours during the previous 12 months, in addition to the current option of 450 hours during the previous three years). This will make it easier for applicants to demonstrate recency of practice, however the Board is of the view that this will not impact on protection of the public.
- The standard specifies that the Board considers that practice in Australia or New Zealand meets the requirements of the standard, and that consideration on a case-by-case basis will be given to whether practice in other countries also meets the requirements of the standard.

Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements

- The standard does not include a requirement for preceptors to have undertaken accredited training, and instead requires preceptors to have suitable relevant training or experience. It directs preceptors to the Board's published guidance for preceptors for further information.
- The standard includes additional requirements for supervised practice when undertaken concurrently across multiple training sites, to facilitate the achievement of suitable training outcomes for interns.
- A number of definitions have been added to the standard to improve clarity.

Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration

- The standard continues to establish the Board's requirements for examinations for eligibility for general registration, with minor changes such as:
 - specification of the examination(s) to be undertaken by provisional and limited registrants

- inclusion of a definition for each of the different examinations
- inclusion of a reference to the *Oral Examination Candidate Guide* published by the Board which provides further information about the oral examination structure and process, and
- inclusion of a reference to the Australian Pharmacy Council who conducts the written examination on behalf of the Board, and publishes information regarding this examination on its website.

Reminder: renewal of registration for 2015/16

The Board reminds pharmacists to renew their registration by the 30 November 2015 registration expiry date. Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), pharmacists are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year. Renewal applications received within a month after the expiry date will incur a late fee. At 30 October 2015, 31 per cent of pharmacists had renewed, of which 99.9 per cent had done so online.

Individuals who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Pharmacists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise or work as a pharmacist in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include a link to [online renewal](#). The Board encourages pharmacists to renew online and reminds them to make sure AHPRA has their current contact information to receive future email and hard copy reminders to renew.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for pharmacists on its website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme also refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
2 November 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.*