

## Communiqué

**21 December 2015**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law<sup>1</sup> and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

### December 2015 Board meeting

During its December meeting held in Melbourne on 11 December 2015, in addition to addressing its routine regulatory matters, the Board progressed planning for its budget for 2016-17. The Board also agreed jurisdictional practitioner appointments to its Notifications Committee. Appointees will be notified shortly and details provided on the Board's website in due course. The Board thanks all pharmacists who lodged an expression of interest for appointment.

### Pharmacy Board newsletter

Earlier this week, an electronic newsletter providing an update on a range of Board activities and practice related issues was e-mailed to all registered pharmacists. A copy of the newsletter is available on the Board's [website](#).

Pharmacists who have not provided an email address can do so through the [online services for practitioners](#).

### Revised registration standards and guidelines

Last week, the Board published a revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements on its website which will come into effect on **1 July 2016**, and replace the standard that is currently in place.

All registered practising pharmacists with general, limited or provisional registration, need to meet the requirements of the revised standard either:

- by the time they next renew their PII arrangements policy, or
- by their next renewal of registration which was due by 30 November 2016, whichever is sooner.

Further details about the revised standard can be accessed on the Board's [website](#).

Publication of the revised PII registration standard follows recent publication of the following:

*Revised [registration standards](#) effective from 1 December 2015:*

- Registration standard: Continuing professional development (CPD)
  - Guidelines on continuing professional development

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

- Registration standard: Recency of practice (RoP)
- Registration standard: Supervised practice arrangements, and
- Registration standard: Examinations for eligibility for general registration.

Revised [guidelines](#) effective 7 December 2015:

- Guidelines for dispensing of medicines
- Guidelines on practice-specific issues
  - Guideline 1 Reference texts for pharmacists
- Guidelines on dose administration aids and staged supply of dispensed medicines, and
- Guidelines for proprietor pharmacists.

### FAQ on continuing professional development (CPD)

The Board has published revised *Frequently asked questions on continuing professional development for pharmacists and pharmacy interns* on its [website](#).

The revised FAQ were developed to assist pharmacists and pharmacy interns in meeting the requirements of the Board's revised *Registration standard: Continuing professional development* and *Guidelines on continuing professional development*.

The standard and guidelines came into effect on **1 December 2015**, and introduce a requirement that pharmacists plan their CPD on an annual basis.

The standard outlines that pharmacists must review the *National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia*, identify their professional development needs and undertake activities to address their needs. The revised CPD guidelines, which supplement the standard, provide guidance to pharmacists about meeting their identified professional development needs for a given CPD period and documenting their CPD activities.

Pharmacists are reminded that they are required to meet the obligations of the revised CPD standard by the next registration renewal period on 30 November 2016. It does not apply to the 2015 cycle of renewals.

A sample CPD plan/record to guide pharmacists in developing their CPD plan and recording the CPD activities undertaken is included in the revised FAQ. The CPD plan/record is also available as a blank template, which pharmacists can download and use in developing and maintaining their own CPD plan and record.

### Renewal of registration for 2015/16

By the renewal of registration due date, 30 November 2015, 96 per cent of pharmacists had renewed, of which 98.7 per cent had done so online.

Pharmacists who did not renew registration by the due date will be able to renew their registration until 31 December 2015; however, a late fee must be paid in addition to the renewal of registration fee.

Under the National Law, if registration is not renewed by 31 December 2015 registration will lapse. The individual's 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 in order 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.

## Pharmacy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will also publish a report in the new year of its work in pharmacists in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for pharmacists in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme and will be available soon on the [AHPRA website](#).

## Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for pharmacists on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

## 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.

William Kelly  
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
21 December 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.*