

Communiqué

27 June 2016

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 Law¹ 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.

June Board meeting

During its meeting on 17 June 2016, the Board received reports from and progressed matters raised through its committees. It also addressed a number of Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Scheme-related matters, including finalising its budget and regulatory work plan for 2016-17. These will be published on the Board's website in the coming weeks.

Newsletter

The June 2016 Pharmacy Board of Australia newsletter to pharmacists will be emailed to all pharmacists in the coming days. The newsletter covers a range of issues including continuing professional development, professional indemnity insurance and practice advice. A copy of the newsletter will also be published on the Board's [website](#).

Revised professional indemnity insurance standard starts on 1 July 2016

In December 2015 the Board published a revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements for pharmacists which will come into effect on 1 July 2016. The revised standard will replace the standard that is currently in place, and will apply to all registered pharmacists except those with non-practising registration.

The revised standard has not changed significantly compared to the standard that is currently in place, continuing to set a minimum amount of cover of \$20 million which reflects the industry standard.

There have been some minor changes to the requirements, with the revised standard specifically requiring policies to have retroactive cover and automatic reinstatement. There is also additional detail about:

- third party cover and run-off cover
- the need to conduct a self-assessment and seek expert advice on whether more than the minimum amount of cover is required
- the need to notify the Board within seven days if PII arrangements are no longer in place
- the required evidence of the PII arrangements in place, and
- consequences if a pharmacist does not meet the standard.

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

Transition period to meet the new standard

The Board published the standard well in advance of its start date to provide pharmacists adequate time to meet it. To ensure a smooth transition:

- Pharmacists must meet the revised standard by the time they renew their registration which is due by 30 November 2016**.
- Until that time, it is acceptable that the PII arrangements in place meet the Board's PII arrangements registration standard dated 1 July 2010. However, if the PII arrangements policy is due for renewal in the meantime, the pharmacist must ensure the new policy meets the new standard.
- If a pharmacist's PII arrangements policy is not due for renewal before renewing their registration, they will need to contact their insurer, and if necessary, have their policy adjusted so it meets the new standard by the time they renew their registration.

The Board is encouraging all pharmacists to review the new registration standard to check whether their current PII arrangements will need to be adjusted to meet the requirements of the new standard.

**Pharmacists whose registration is not due for renewal by 30 November 2016 must meet the requirements of the new standard by 30 November 2016.

Nomenclature compendium of commonly used Chinese herbal medicines

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia commissioned the development of a *Nomenclature compendium of commonly used Chinese herbal medicines* (compendium), which is published on the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia [website](#) along with a user guide. The searchable compendium cross-references almost 700 commonly used Chinese herbs, and allows the user to enter the authorised *Pin Yin* name for a medicine to easily identify what herbal medicine a patient is taking and obtain other useful information about the medicine. Pharmacists may find this information helpful in their practice.

National Restrictions Library

Restrictions (conditions and undertakings) are a primary regulatory tool used to protect the public. Regulators place restrictions on registration as necessary in the course of an investigation and/or disciplinary procedure or as a result of a disciplinary procedure. Restrictions may also be imposed at the time of registration or renewal of registration, for various reasons.

A National Restrictions Library has been developed to provide a consolidated structure for common restrictions used across the regulatory functions of all of the National Boards and to support:

- consistency in recommendations from AHPRA to the National Boards and delegates
- consistency in the restrictions appearing on the national public register of health practitioners, and
- a best practice approach to monitoring compliance with restrictions.

More information about the National Restrictions Library, including a copy of the contents, can be found on [AHPRA's website](#).

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

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
27 June 2016

[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.*