

Communiqué

3 February 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.

January 2016 Board meeting

During its January meeting held in Melbourne on 22 January 2016, in addition to addressing its routine regulatory matters, the Board also addressed a number of other matters.

Strategic planning

The Board held a strategic planning workshop to identify new and ongoing priorities for inclusion in its 2016/17 regulatory work plan. The Board will continue this work concurrently with its 2016/17 budget development process. The Board's finalised regulatory work plan will be incorporated into its health profession agreement for 2016/17 which will be published on the Board's website.

Meeting with the Australian Pharmacy Council

The Board met with delegates and senior staff of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) to discuss work carried out by APC on behalf of the Board.

Under the National Law, which established the National Scheme, the Board decided the accreditation function for the pharmacy profession would be exercised by APC. The accreditation agreement between the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and APC facilitates the collaboration between APC, AHPRA and the Board.

In addition to accrediting education providers and programs of study for the pharmacy profession, the APC also has other important functions such as the assessment of overseas qualified pharmacists seeking registration to practise in Australia and the administration of the written examination component of the Board's Registration Examination. Intern pharmacists sit this examination to compete the requirements for general registration.

The agreed work program being carried out by APC and the costs of delivering the accreditation functions under the National Law were discussed by the Board and APC. As part of the Board's annual budget preparations, these discussions will assist the Board to determine the funding amount to be contributed to ensure successful delivery by APC of the accreditation functions under the National Scheme.

Further consultation on guidance: Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines

The Board published its *Guidelines on compounding of medicines* (the guidelines) last year after a period of public consultation. It has now published a consultation paper seeking

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

feedback on revisions to the guidance in the section titled *Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines* of the compounding guidelines.

The consultation paper and response form are available from the Board's [Current Consultations page](#) on its website. Given the Board's previous consultation on the complete compounding guidelines, other sections of the guidelines are not part of this public consultation.

The guidelines came into effect on 28 April 2015 with the exception of the *Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines* section which the Board announced was postponed to enable review and investigation of further feedback and information it received on the proposed guidance.

The Board, in collaboration with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), subsequently held two stakeholder meetings (in Melbourne and Sydney) which were attended by stakeholders and pharmacists. All of whom made valuable contributions to the discussion about the Board's proposed guidance on the expiry of compounded sterile injectable medicines.

The Board in consultation with TGA has since developed revisions to the *Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines* section of the guidelines which are the subject of this current public consultation.

Consultation on the revised guidance will close on 30 March 2016 and the community, stakeholders, pharmacists and other health practitioners are welcome to make a submission.

Renewal of registration for 2015/16

Renewal of registration was due on 30 November 2015. Pharmacists who did not renew their registration by the due date could lodge a late application (and pay a late fee) to renew during December 2015. Those who did not lodge a renewal application during this time had their registration lapse and their names were removed from the online public register.

Anyone who didn't apply to renew registration by 31 December 2015 could lodge a fast track application during January 2016. The fast track application process is now closed.

Consequently, anyone who was registered with the Board in 2015 and wishes to practise is required to complete a new application for general registration which can be downloaded from the *Registration* section of www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Practice can only resume if the application for general registration has been processed by AHPRA, registration granted and if the applicant's name appears on the Register of Pharmacists. A pharmacist's registration status can be checked at the *Registration* section of www.ahpra.gov.au.

Employer obligations

If you employ registered health practitioners, you have an important obligation to ensure that they hold current registration and that you understand your mandatory notification requirements under the National Law.

AHPRA has published [resources](#) to help you understand and meet your obligations, which are designed to complement your recruitment requirements and processes. These materials state exactly what your obligations are and it is important that you are familiar with them.

Health practitioner regulation: Learn how you're protected

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide scheme that is in place to protect members of the public was released by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in December.

Both resources are available on the [What we do](#) page of the AHPRA website or read the [news item](#) on the Board website for more information. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's [YouTube channel](#).

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
3 February 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.*