



Communiqué

29 November 2011

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 25 November 2011 in Fremantle, Western Australia.

Meeting in Western Australia

The Board conducted its November meeting in Western Australia. The two day visit also provided an opportunity to meet with local pharmacists and stakeholders to discuss issues affecting pharmacy practice and progress of the national registration and accreditation scheme. The Board also took the opportunity to visit a medication packaging facility which uses automated technology to prepare dose administration aids (DAAs). Members also visited a pharmacy which supplies the DAAs to patients.

Compounding Working Party

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has established a Compounding Working Party to advise it on compounding issues and to develop policy, codes and guidelines on compounding, including more complex compounding than the extemporaneous preparations contained in the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary.

The Working Party met in October and reported to the Board at its November meeting.

At its October meeting, the Working Party discussed with Working Party members, which currently includes the Editor of the APF, Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, options for suitable definitions for complex compounding and associated nomenclature. The next APF is expected to be published in February 2012. The Board proposes to adopt definitions in its guidelines which are consistent with definitions published in the APF.

The Board agreed the need to identify and develop core competencies for complex compounding. It also agreed that an indicative curriculum would need to be developed and mapped against existing courses for compounding (locally delivered courses and courses available overseas). It is intended that an accreditation process for compounding courses also be developed.

Both simple extemporaneous preparation and compounding by pharmacists are currently exempt from the Code of Good Manufacturing Practice when appropriate poisons legislation is observed. Also, both must be done after consultation by the pharmacist with a client or on the prescription of a registered health practitioner or veterinarian for an individual client or animal. There is no exemption for the making of batches or for bulk supply for surgery or veterinary use. Supply to another pharmacy for re-labelling is considered manufacturing. Proposed guidelines being drafted by the working party for consideration by the Board seek to clarify these issues for pharmacists.

The Working Party currently consists of Board members Gerry McInerney (Chair), Bill Kelly and Board Chair Steve Marty (ex officio). Invitations are to be sent to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia to nominate suitable additional members. A representative of the pharmacy approval authorities will also be invited to join the Working Party. Additional experts may be added on an 'as needs' basis and to date the sub-committee has utilised the services of Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, as mentioned earlier, and Ms Jenny Giam, who was involved in the preparation of PSA's compounding standards.

When the Board finally decides on any draft policies or guidelines, they will be published for consultation, with comments invited from members of the profession, stakeholders and the public for consideration by the Board before being instituted. This is expected to occur in the first half of 2012.

Practitioner audits

The Board conducted two focus groups with practitioners in November to test the communications materials for the practitioner audits, which will begin early next year.

Pharmacists will be randomly selected for the audit. They will be notified that they are being audited in a letter, which also outlines what they need to do to comply. The audit will be a pilot for other health professions and will identify any areas where changes are necessary in the system.

Renewal of registration

Registration renewal is due by 30 November 2011. Pharmacists who fail to renew on time will be able to renew during the late period (1 December to 31 December 2011), however, in addition to the renewal of registration fee, a late fee must also be paid.

If a practitioner fails to submit their renewal application before 31 December, they will not be able to practise until they have registered.

Contact details and registration status can be checked through AHPRA's Online Services. To assist AHPRA to effectively manage the registration process, pharmacists should ensure that their contact details, including their e-mail address, are up-to-date. To update contact details, go to www.ahpra.gov.au/login.aspx and use your AHPRA user ID and pass code to log in. If you do not have a user ID or have forgotten it, go to www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Contact-Us.aspx to complete an online enquiry. The progress of registration renewal applications can be tracked online.

Stephen Marty

Chair

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