



Communiqué

24 December 2012

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 14 December 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Review of accreditation arrangements

Prior to the start of the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme ([National Scheme](#)), the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council assigned the Australian Pharmacy Council (the Council) the role of accreditation authority for the pharmacy profession for an initial period of three years.

Following a review that included wide-ranging public consultation, the Board has decided to extend this assignment of the Council as the accreditation authority for a further period of five years from 1 July 2013.

In making the assignment, the Board is conscious of the importance of balancing the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments (such as the review of the National Scheme) with the need for certainty and continuity for education providers, as well as enabling effective planning and efficient management by the Council.

The Board will:

- integrate suitable flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council
- establish an agreed program of work, and
- identify key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment.

The Council will continue regular reporting (in addition to reports on accredited programs) to the Board on the Council's activities and governance structures, in line with the *Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function*.

Requirement for preceptor training

The Board has decided to consult on the requirement for preceptor training that was scheduled to automatically begin on 1 July 2013, as stated in the current [Pharmacy supervised practice arrangements registration standard](#) (the standard).

The standard states that in order for a pharmacist to be approved by the Board as preceptor for the purpose of conducting a period of supervised practice, they must have attended, within the previous three years, preceptor training approved by the accreditation process approved by the Board.

This requirement will now first undergo consultation as part of the scheduled review of the Board standards, guidelines and codes due to begin by 30 June 2013.

As part of the wide-ranging consultation on the revised standard, the Board will consult with the profession on options under consideration.

Release of *Guiding principles for medication management in residential aged care facilities* October 2012

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing has recently released a new document - *Guiding principles for medication management in residential aged care facilities* October 2012.

The document builds on previous editions developed under the [Australian National Medicines Policy](#), and promotes the safe and quality use of medicines in residential aged care facilities.

The new document is a useful resource for pharmacists involved in providing services to residential aged care facilities, and is available on the [Department of Health and Ageing website](#).

Renewal of registration

Under the National Scheme, all registered practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time.

The national registration renewal with the Pharmacy Board of Australia of nearly 25,000 pharmacists across Australia was due by 30 November 2012.

The Board is pleased to announce that 96 percent of pharmacists submitted their application for renewal of registration to AHPRA on time. These pharmacists have either been registered until 30 November 2013 or their applications are still in assessment.

Pharmacists who held general registration and are waiting for confirmation that their registration has been renewed are still able to practise in the profession while their application is being assessed. Their names will remain listed on the [National Register of Pharmacists](#).

Late registration renewal

Pharmacists who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2012 are now in the late renewal period built into the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

In order to keep practising, these pharmacists must apply to renew by 31 December 2012. Late registration renewal is still available online and will incur a late payment fee in addition to the registration renewal fee.

AHPRA has issued reminders for late registration renewals and, to date, a further three percent of pharmacists have renewed this December.

Removal from the national register

Any pharmacist who does not contact AHPRA before close of business on 2 January 2013 will be removed from the National Register of Pharmacists. In line with AHPRA policy, this deadline to renew has been extended, as the due date falls on a weekend, followed by a public holiday.

The registration of any pharmacist who does not apply in time will lapse and they will be unable to practise pharmacy in Australia until a new application has been approved. Under the National Law, neither the National Board nor AHPRA have any discretion on this matter.

Fast track applications to renew registration

Pharmacists who miss the registration renewal deadline have four weeks after this date to make a fast-track application to renew their general registration. This is treated as a new application for registration and will incur an application fee, a registration fee and a fast-track application fee. The pharmacists will be unable to practise pharmacy until their fast-track registration application is approved.

Updating contact details

It is important that pharmacists keep their contact details, including email addresses, provided to AHPRA current and up-to-date. This will help the Board and AHPRA in their efforts to communicate important information to pharmacists over the coming year, especially in the months leading up to the 2013 health practitioner renewal of registration (30 November 2013).

Practitioner Audit Pilot Report

A report on phase one of the pharmacy audit pilot conducted earlier this year has been published on the Board's [website](#).

The report explains AHPRA's approach to auditing practitioner compliance with the Board's registration standards, and provides valuable information for the development of practitioner audits in the National Scheme.

New national children's medicines dosing resource in mid-2013

The Department of Health and Ageing is coordinating the development of a new national paediatric medicines dosing resource. Further information is available [in this communiqué](#).

The Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd (AMH) has been engaged to develop and maintain the paediatric dosing resource, which will be available for sale from mid-2013.

The Board's [Guidelines on practice-specific issues – Guideline 1 \(List of References\)](#) currently outline that a current paediatric reference available from an Australian source (including a teaching hospital) must be accessible to pharmacists.

The Board will monitor the progress in the development of the children's medicines dosing resource and will keep the profession up-to-date in future communiqués and newsletters.

Community Reference Group

AHPRA is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all 14 National Boards in the National Scheme.

The Community Reference Group will consist of 10 members from the community to provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively.

More information on how to apply to become a member will be available on the [AHPRA website](#) in coming weeks, with applications expected to close at the end of January 2013.

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.

Stephen Marty
Chair
24 December 2012