



Communiqué

The twelfth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 24 September 2010 in Melbourne.

Guidelines

The Board is seeking feedback on its draft 'Guidelines on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors'. The draft guidelines are published for consultation on the Board's website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au). The guideline requires a proprietor to be aware of the manner in which his or her pharmacy is being conducted and where necessary, intervene to ensure that the pharmacy is properly conducted. It also outlines that proprietors must have an understanding of the range of pharmacy and non-pharmacy goods sold, and services provided at the pharmacy (and the liability associated with providing such services), e.g. teeth whitening products and pathology collection services. The aim is to provide guidance to pharmacists about what they need to do to meet their legal and professional responsibilities when practising as proprietors. Submissions are welcome and can be made until close of business on 29 October 2010 by email to pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au.

Update on Western Australia

Western Australia is expected to join the National Registration Scheme on 18 October 2010. The Board is finalising its Registration Transition Plan for registrants in Western Australia. This outlines how existing registration types in Western Australia will transition to the registration types established under the national scheme for transitioning registrants. AHPRA is working hard to de-duplicate records for registrants currently holding registration under the national scheme as well as in Western Australia, to ensure that only one registration record remains on the national register of pharmacists from 18 October 2010.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is also ensuring that interns currently undertaking supervised practice in Western Australia transition to the national scheme with provisional registration. This will enable them to continue to complete the requirements for general registration without interruption.

Internships and Examinations

The Board's Examinations Committee is currently finalising intern and preceptor guides. These resources are due for publication on the Board's website in late October. The guides will detail the responsibilities of interns and preceptors in the internship and outline the requirements of the internship year.

As previously advised, the Board will implement a national examination from 1 January 2011. To facilitate this, the Board has requested that AHPRA appoints a person to coordinate the national examination process and the team of professional officers currently involved in this important function of the Board.

Board Meetings

From October, the Board will meet at the national office of AHPRA at 111 Bourke Street Melbourne. Consistent with its plan to hold one of its Board meetings each year outside Victoria, the Board has decided to hold its May 2011 meeting in Darwin and will take this opportunity to visit sites providing different types of pharmacy services. It also intends to meet with local pharmacists and organisations.

Pharmacy Approval Authorities

With the implementation of the national registration and accreditation scheme, the approval of pharmacy premises has become the province of jurisdictional pharmacy approval authorities. With the Board's approval, AHPRA and the Victorian Pharmacy Authority have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow for the exchange of information between both organisations to ensure that up-to-date information about the registration status of pharmacists and details of pharmacy premises can be exchanged between each organisation, supporting their day-to-day operations. AHPRA will review the arrangement with a view to developing possible MOUs with other pharmacy approval authorities in the near future.

Stephen Marty
Chair
6 October 2010