



Communiqué

17 April 2012

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 23 March 2012 in Hobart, Tasmania.

Meeting in Tasmania

The Board conducted its March meeting in Hobart. The two day visit also provided an opportunity for board members to meet with local pharmacists and stakeholders to discuss issues affecting pharmacy practice and progress of the national registration and accreditation scheme.

Continuing Professional Development FAQs

The Board has published answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on continuing professional development (CPD) on its website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx). The [Frequently Asked Questions - Continuing Professional Development](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions for Pharmacy Interns – Continuing Professional Development](#) provide further information and clarification on a number of issues outlined in the Board's [Continuing professional development registration standard](#) and [Guidelines on continuing professional development](#). The FAQs address issues such as meeting annual requirements, absences from practice, CPD activities / groups, maintenance of CPD records for audits, learning plans and the types of activities that interns can include in their CPD records or portfolios.

The Board's Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee was responsible for the development of these resources and incorporated contributions from the staff of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum.

Dispensing multiple repeat prescriptions at one time

Prescribers who intend patients to obtain multiple repeats of PBS medicines can endorse the PBS prescription 'Regulation 24'. RPBS prescriptions may be endorsed 'hardship conditions apply.' In the case of non-PBS medicines, prescribers may specify quantities that suit the patient's circumstances. In all of these circumstances, prescribers would be required to take patient safety into consideration. In cases where prescribers have not specified simultaneous supply of multiple quantities of a particular medicine, the supply of multiple repeats at once by pharmacists is contrary to good pharmaceutical practice.

The Board's guideline 'Dispensing multiple repeat prescriptions at one time' (Guideline 2 in its *Guidelines for dispensing of medicines*) raises important issues regarding the simultaneous supply of multiple quantities of a particular medicine (i.e. the supply of multiple repeats at once).

Actions by pharmacists to encourage patients to seek the permission of their prescribers which authorises the supply of multiple quantities of particular medicines in order to save money is contrary to the National Medicines Policy and Quality Use of Medicines principles. As outlined in the Board's guideline, it does not promote best pharmacy practice in relation to regular review of therapy and effective provision of medicine information, which assists in minimising medication misadventure.

Stephen Marty
Chair
17 April 2012