



Podiatry Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: RECENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2016

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Podiatry Board of Australia's (the Board) minimum requirements for recency of practice for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons must have recent practice experience in the scope of practice in which they intend to work to maintain their competence to practise safely.

Does this standard apply to me?

This registration standard applies if you are:

- currently registered or applying for registration as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon (apart from non-practising registration)
- applying for an endorsement
- applying to change your type of registration from non-practising to another category of registration, or
- changing your scope of practice.

It does not apply if you are:

- a student
- a recent graduate (as defined in this registration standard), or
- applying for or renewing non-practising registration.

What must I do?

To meet this registration standard you must have practised in your scope of practice for a minimum of:

- 450 hours in the three year period prior to applying for registration or renewal of registration, or
- 150 hours in the 12 month period prior to applying for registration or renewal of registration.

Meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice doesn't automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure

that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

What does this mean for me?

When you apply for registration

When you apply for registration or an endorsement, you must meet this registration standard, unless you are a recent graduate or you are applying for non-practising registration.

At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you must declare whether you meet this registration standard. You must be able to substantiate your declaration with evidence if requested by the Board.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

Evidence

You must retain records of your practice for at least five years in case you are audited.

If you cannot provide evidence of practice, you may be required to undertake a competency assessment, further study or a supervised clinical placement to demonstrate your competence to practice. The Board may also place conditions on your registration where necessary to ensure safe professional practice.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you are a registered podiatrist or podiatric surgeon

1. The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:
 - the Board can impose conditions on your registration or refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82, 83 and 112 of the National Law), and
 - registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional practice or conduct for the podiatry profession (sections 41 of the National Law).
2. The Board will consider your application and any accompanying documentation and take a number of factors into consideration when deciding whether or not to grant your application for registration or renewal of registration.

Further information about the factors the Board will take into account and the information you should submit to support your application is published on the Board's website.

3. The Board may require you to provide additional information and may also require you to undertake:
 - an assessment or examination to assess your competence to practice, and/or
 - further specific education, and/or
 - a period of supervised practice.

If you have non-practising registration or are not registered and you wish to return to practice

1. If you have at least two years prior clinical practice experience as a registered podiatrist or podiatric surgeon and you wish to return to practice one of the following will apply to you.
 - a. If you have had non-practising registration or have not been registered for between one and three years:
 - i. at a minimum you must complete at least one years' quota of continuing professional development (CPD) activities relevant to your intended scope of practice (during the 12 months prior to applying for a category of practising registration). The Board's *Continuing professional development registration standard* sets out the Board's CPD requirements, and
 - ii. the Board may require you to provide additional information and may also impose additional requirements which may include requiring you to undertake:
 - an assessment or examination to assess your competence to practice, and/or
 - further specific education, and/or
 - a period of supervised practice.
 - b. If you have had non-practising registration or have not been registered for more than three years:
 - i. at a minimum you must:
 - complete at least one years' quota of CPD activities relevant to your intended scope of practice (during the 12 months prior to applying for a category of practising registration), and
 - provide a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice to the Board for consideration and approval. Information to assist you in developing a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice is published on the Board's website, and
 - ii. the Board may require you to provide additional information and may also impose additional requirements which may include requiring you to undertake:
 - an assessment or examination to assess your competence to practice, and/or
 - further specific education.
2. If you have less than two years prior clinical experience as a registered podiatrist or podiatric surgeon, and you have had non-practising

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registration or not been registered for more than 12 months:

- a. You must complete at least one years' quota of CPD activities relevant to your intended scope of practice (during the 12 months before applying for registration); and
- b. You will have conditions placed on your registration to facilitate your return to safe professional practice, which may include a requirement for you to undertake:
 - an assessment or examination to assess your competence to practice, and/or
 - further specific education, and/or
 - a period of supervised practice.

Requirements if you are changing your scope of practice

If you are proposing to change the scope of your practice you may be required to undergo additional training to ensure that you are competent in your new scope of practice.

The Board's requirements are:

- a. if the change is an extension of practice that your peers might reasonably expect in practice of that nature, you are required to undertake training that peers would expect before changing or expanding the scope of practice, and
- b. if the change is a significant change to a different scope of practice, (for example, changing from an administrative role into a clinical practice role) you are required to develop a plan for professional development that will ensure your competence to practice in the new scope of practice and submit to the Board for consideration and approval. Information to assist you in developing a plan for professional development and re-entry to practice is published on the Board's website.

More information

The Board has developed *Guidelines on recency of practice* to assist you to understand this registration standard and requirements. The guidelines also provide guidance on:

- the information you should submit with your application form if you don't meet this registration standard, and
- planning and preparing for a return to practice.

The guidelines are published on the Board's website.

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

Definitions

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation Law, as in force in each state and territory.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration on the basis of a qualification for registration that was awarded not more than 12 months prior to the date of their application.

Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

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Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 December 2016

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.