

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

To be able to practise competently and safely, podiatrists must have recent practice in the fields in which they intend to work during the period of registration for which they are applying.

The specific requirements for recency depend on the field of practice, the level of experience of the practitioner and the length of absence from the field.

Practitioners who cannot meet this recency standard will be required to submit a plan for re-entry to practice for the Board's consideration and may be required to complete specific education and/or assessment and may be required to work under supervision or oversight before being granted unrestricted registration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for registration or renewal who have not practised for more than 12 months.

Requirements

1. For podiatrists returning to practice within their previous field, provided they have at least two years' experience prior to the absence:
 - a) Absence less than one year — no specific requirements to be met before recommencing practice.
 - b) Absence between one and three years — complete a minimum of one year's quota of continuing professional development activities in the 12 month period prior to returning to practice relevant to the intended scope of practice prior to recommencement designed to maintain and update knowledge, clinical judgement and technical skills.
 - c) Absence greater than three years — provide a plan for professional development and for re-entry to practice to the Board for consideration.
2. Podiatrists returning to practice after an absence of 12 months or longer, and who have had less than two years' experience prior to the absence will have conditions placed on their registration to facilitate their return to safe professional practice.
3. For the purposes of this standard, practice is recognised if the podiatrist held a valid registration with a podiatry regulatory authority in the jurisdiction

where the hours were worked (in Australia or overseas); and

- a) the role involved the use of podiatry knowledge and skills in some capacity; or
 - b) the time was spent undertaking postgraduate education leading to an award or qualification that is relevant to the practice of podiatry.
4. The Board will monitor recency of practice by including a recency of practice question on the annual renewal form.
 - a) Registered podiatrists must be able to substantiate their responses with evidence if requested by the Board. Evidence of practice must be kept for five years.
 - b) An audit process that detects noncompliance with the standard will initiate followup from the Board requesting evidence or demonstration of maintenance of skills and knowledge to practise competently during the relevant period.
 - c) Where such evidence cannot be produced, the podiatrist may be required to undertake a competency assessment, further study or a supervised clinical placement to demonstrate competence. The Board may also place conditions on the podiatrist's registration. This may include limitation of registration, clinical area

Definitions

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

Recency of practice means that a practitioner has maintained recent practice in the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years