

Communique

Eleventh meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia 29 August 2010

Podiatric Surgery – Accreditation Standard

The Board's accreditation authority, The Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council, has been requested to develop an Accreditation Standard for the specialty of podiatric surgery. This exhaustive process will involve national and international review of programs of study and standards and will provide the benchmarks needed for education providers to meet in order to facilitate training for podiatric surgeons under the National Law. The process will include consultations with all interested stakeholders.

Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines

Review of Guideline for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines

Stakeholder consultation will soon be sought by the Board for a series of suggested amendments to the Guideline for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines. Review of the Guideline has commenced as a result of progress made by the Board in terms of determining approved programs of study, clarification of requirements for endorsement across Australian jurisdictions, and the possibility of amendment to some State and Territory Drugs and Poisons Legislation.

List of Scheduled Medicines Approved by the Podiatry Board of Australia (The National Drugs List)

A suggested amendment to the Guideline for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines is the aggregation of the National Drugs List. The expanded list incorporates all contemporary and relevant drugs and poisons previously approved under various Drugs and Poisons legislations in Australia. Not all of these drugs and poisons are currently available to podiatrists in all Australian jurisdictions. The Board seeks to facilitate the standardisation of the scheduled medicines available across Australia. Governments and the public can be assured that a podiatrist, having met the Board's Standards for general registration, endorsement for scheduled medicine and podiatric surgery, have the appropriate knowledge, skills and attributes to safely use and/or prescribe the drugs and poisons listed on the National Drugs List, as limited by their registration category. Lifelong learning via Continuing Professional Development as mandated by registration Standards helps to ensure that contemporary practice is maintained and improved.

Please note that all podiatrists must ensure they are familiar with their jurisdiction's Drugs and Poisons legislation to ensure that they are practising within the law.

Approval of Programs of Study

The programs of study approved by the Podiatry Board of Australia towards eligibility for application for endorsement for scheduled medicines are listed in Appendix B of the Board's Guideline on Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines (available at <http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx>). Those approved programs had 'transitioned' under Section 283 of the National Law, having previously been approved by the then Podiatry Registration

Board of Victoria. At its eleventh meeting, the Board approved the now discontinued Curtin University Masters of Podiatry under Section 94 (1) (a) (ii), and have added this course to the list at Appendix B.

Website Improvements

Prescription Pads

Templates for prescription pads for podiatrists with endorsement for scheduled medicines and for podiatrists with endorsement for scheduled medicines *and* registration for podiatric surgery are now available on the Board's website. Whilst there is no legally required prescription pad format, the templates provide a useful guide to the information that should be included on prescription pads. Good prescribing practice includes the safe keeping of duplicate prescriptions using a serial numbering system. The Board, during an audit of podiatrists with endorsement for scheduled medicines, may request such evidence of good prescribing practice.

Prescribing Information for Podiatrists with an Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines

General information for podiatrists with endorsement for scheduled medicines is now available on the Board's website.

Assessment of Overseas Trained Podiatrists

All overseas trained podiatrists wishing to practise podiatry in Australia must first apply to the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (www.anzpac.org.au) prior to applying for and category of registration.

Coming Soon to the website

- FAQs on appropriate advertising under the National Law
- Information on courses to meet annual CPR requirements
- Information relating to the application for endorsement for scheduled medicines.

All podiatrists are encouraged to check the Board's website regularly for updates and more useful information and links.

As always, the Board is keen to receive feedback from interested stakeholders - for instance, information you may wish to see included on the website. Feedback may be emailed to natboards@ahpra.gov.au.

Still have questions?

If you are unable to find answer in the frequently asked questions section at the website (www.podiatryboard.gov.au) the AHPRA call centre number is: **1300 088 590**