

Communiqué

17th meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 23 March 2011

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Consultation Paper: Guidelines on Clinical Records

The Board recently released for consultation draft *Guidelines on Clinical Records*. The consultation period closes on 10 May 2011 and the Board encourages registrants and other stakeholders to provide feedback about the proposed Guidelines, which are published on the Board's website under [Current Consultations](#).

Guidelines for Podiatrists with Blood-Borne Infections

The Board recently consulted on its review of the *Guidelines for Podiatrists with Blood Borne Infections*. The Board amended the Guidelines to ensure consistency with the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare*, which have recently been reviewed and amended by the Commonwealth.

The Board received nine submissions and thanks those individuals and organisations who took the time to consider the consultation paper and provide feedback. The Board will amend the draft Guidelines having considered the feedback received. Once finalised, the Guidelines will be published on the Board's website.

Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines

The Board recently published on its website new *Guidelines for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* (Guidelines), which took effect on 15 March 2011. Practitioners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these Guidelines, which provide important information about the requirements for applying for an endorsement for scheduled medicines and include *Clinical Practice Guidelines* and the *List of Scheduled Medicines Approved by the Podiatry Board of Australia* (the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List).

A new Information Package, which was also published on 15 March 2011, includes instructions on completing log sheets; templates for log sheets and prescription pads; information for clinicians who are providing references; information for practitioners who will be supervising applicants; and a pro-forma supervisory agreement.

Registrants are reminded that although an endorsement for scheduled medicines indicates a podiatrist is qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use the scheduled medicines listed in the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List, it does not authorise the podiatrist to do so. Authorisation to use scheduled medicines is covered by the relevant drugs and poisons legislation in each State and Territory and podiatrists must comply with the requirements of that legislation in the jurisdiction in which they are practising. The Board expects podiatrists to be familiar with these local State and Territory requirements and to practise within them.

'Authorised' podiatrists and Podiatric Surgeons from WA and SA

Podiatric Surgeons from South Australia have transitioned to the national scheme with an endorsement for scheduled medicines on their registration. This is because it is considered that the purpose of the authorisation they have under the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 1996 (SA) as a podiatric surgeon to prescribe, supply or administer selected Schedule 4 drugs is substantially equivalent to the purpose for which an endorsement under the National Law is granted. However, as the regulations restricted the practitioner to prescribe, supply or administer only selected Schedule 4 medicines, this restriction also transitioned to their endorsement, which is subject to a condition that is identical to the authorisation under the regulations at the date of transition.

Similarly, 'authorised' podiatrists and podiatric surgeons in Western Australia have also transitioned with an endorsement for scheduled medicines on their registration as the purpose of the authorisation they have been given under the Poisons Regulations 1965 (WA) is substantially equivalent to the purpose for which an endorsement under the National Law is granted. As the 'authorisation' restricted these practitioners to purchase and use only a defined list of Schedule 4 medicines, this restriction has also transitioned to their endorsement, which is subject to a condition which is identical to the authorisation in place in Western Australia at the date of transition.

Podiatrists with an endorsement for scheduled medicines will need to comply with all of the Board's requirements, including but not limited to its Recency of Practice Standard when they apply to renew their registration (by 30 November 2011) to maintain their endorsement for scheduled medicines. The complete requirements are detailed on the Board's website and particularly in its *Guidelines for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* and in the associated Information Pack.

Practitioners who have a condition on their endorsement may apply to the Board to have the condition removed. To decide whether to remove a condition on an endorsement and to satisfy itself that a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon is competent to practice podiatry consistent with an unrestricted endorsement for scheduled medicines and use the range of medications in the National Podiatry Medicines List, the Board may require a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon to undergo an examination or assessment.

The Board considers that if an examination or assessment is required, a successful assessment following the completion of a Board approved Therapeutics Update Course would be an appropriate form of assessment. Currently, La Trobe University is the only provider of an approved Therapeutic Update Course and further information about the course is available in the Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines: Information Pack, which is available on the Board's website at www.podiatryboard.gov.au. The Board is currently discussing with La Trobe University how such an assessment might be proposed.

Applications and renewals

Since the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010, 2482 podiatrists have renewed their registration and 358 podiatrists have been registered for the first time.

AHPRA is continually improving its registration processes and planned further upgrades to the online services will enable practitioners to check the progress of their registration application online. Podiatrists can already [check online that their application to renew registration](#) has been received.

The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law)* as in force in each state and territory.

Website

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at: www.podiatryboard.gov.au and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting their profession.

The Board encourages practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through [online services](#). This will enable AHPRA to contact practitioners about important registration information and the National Board to contact practitioners with important updates for the profession.

Jason Warnock
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia

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