

Communiqué

19th meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 25 May 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 consulted on its *Guidelines on Clinical Records* and would like to thank those 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 www.podiatryboard.gov.au under Codes and Guidelines.

These guidelines describe the minimum requirements for clinical records whether they are in paper or electronic form. Podiatrists must create and maintain clinical records that serve the best interests of the patient/client and that contribute to the safety and continuity of their podiatric care.

Podiatrists in New South Wales to renew their registration by 30 June 2011.

Podiatrists in New South Wales whose registration expires on 30 June 2011 will be renewing their registration for the first time under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Registration renewal dates are being aligned nationally for podiatrists to 30 November and podiatrists in New South Wales will initially renew their registration for five months to 30 November 2011 and then they will renew again for a further 12 months.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has sent renewal notices to podiatrists who are due to renew their registration. Those who have provided AHPRA with their email addresses will also receive reminders by email.

76% of registered podiatrists have provided their email address to AHPRA and those who have not already done so are encouraged to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through [online services](#) on the AHPRA website.

Most practitioners can renew their registration online using the User ID provided on the registration renewal notice. Online renewal of registration is quick and easy. Once completed, the renewal application usually takes between two and 48 hours to be processed, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Under the National Law, podiatrists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Podiatrists. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

If you need more information regarding the renewal process visit www.ahpra.gov.au or telephone AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

AHPRA has introduced further improvements in the telephone processes providing better service to registrants during the recent high traffic rates associated with registration renewals.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Board reminds podiatrists that they must meet the Board's CPD requirements by 30 November 2011. Useful information regarding the CPD requirements can be found in the following documents on the Board's website www.podiatryboard.gov.au:

- Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard
- Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development
- FAQ: Continuing Professional Development for Podiatrists.

Audit of compliance with Registration Standards

The Board noted that AHPRA has commenced a project to implement an audit of compliance process with the mandatory Registration Standards across all ten National Boards. A communication strategy will be a central part of the audit of compliance project to key stakeholders. Further information for key stakeholders will be published in upcoming months.

Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action

The Board considered and provided feedback to the Health Workforce Australia's draft National Health Workforce Innovation and Reform Strategic Framework for Action (the draft Framework). The Board encourages all of its key stakeholders to consider the draft Framework and become engaged with the further progress of its development.

Online applications for students about to graduate

Podiatry students who are about to finish their course midyear are encouraged to apply early for registration.

AHPRA has introduced an online registration service for final year students which enables them to apply for registration four to six weeks before they complete their course. Education providers will advise AHPRA when applicants are eligible to graduate and AHPRA will then finalise the assessment of the application. This process will streamline entry to the workforce for graduating podiatry students who need to be registered as a podiatrist before they can start work. For more information, please go to www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx.

Advertising

Podiatrists are reminded that the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory (National Law) and the Board's *Guidelines for Advertising Regulated Health Services* provide clear requirements and guidance for health practitioners when considering advertising their practice.

Under section 133 of the National Law, it is an offence for a person to advertise a regulated health service, or a business that provides a regulated health service, in a way that:

- (a) is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to be misleading or deceptive; or
- (b) offers a gift, discount, or other inducement to attract a person to use the service or the business, unless the advertisement also sets out the terms and conditions of the offer; or
- (c) uses testimonials or purported testimonials about the service or business; or

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

- (d) creates an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment; or
- (e) directly or indirectly encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of regulated health services.

The Board encourages practitioners to familiarise themselves with the Board's advertising guidelines, which are available on the Board's website www.podiatryboard.gov.au and ensure that their advertising complies with the National Law and the guidelines. For example, the use of testimonials when advertising a regulated health service is not permitted under the National Law. Failure to adhere to the advertising guidelines may constitute unprofessional conduct and/or professional misconduct and may be investigated by the Board.

Further information

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.

Jason Warnock
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia

2 June 2011