

# Communiqué

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## Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 24 August 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.

### Accreditation and Approval of Podiatry programs of study at the University of Western Australia

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The National Law sets out the roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority, the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC), in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

ANZPAC advised the Board that in July 2011 it accredited the podiatry programs of study (Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine (Pass & Hons)) at the University of Western Australia for a period of 5 years.

The Board considered the ANZPAC report on its accreditation of the podiatry programs at the University of Western Australia and approved the Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine (Pass & Hons) four year degree program of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Crawley Campus, University of Western Australia, as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration in the podiatry profession.

### Renewal of registration

Registered podiatrists around Australia are required to renew their registration by 30 November 2011.

Registrants will soon receive important renewal information from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Practitioners who have provided AHPRA with their email address will receive email notices as well as letters reminding them to renew their registration and the Board encourages practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email address. This can easily be done online and there is a link at the bottom of both the Board and AHPRA websites to *Update Contact Details*.

The Board encourages practitioners to renew early and to renew online. If a practitioner has not applied to renew their registration within one month after their registration expiry date, their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise podiatry in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. Under the National Law, they must be removed from the Register of Podiatrists.

### CPD Reminder

Practitioners are required to regularly participate in continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to their scope of practice. Podiatrists with general registration are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per year as well as hold current a CPR certificate which includes management of anaphylaxis and use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED) – (see below for further information).

Podiatric surgeons must complete an additional 20 hours of CPD per year related to this scope of practice and podiatrists with an endorsement for scheduled medicines must complete an additional 10 hours of CPD per year related to the use of scheduled medicines in podiatry practice.

The Board's CPD requirements must be met by the time practitioners renew their registration, which is due on 30 November 2011.

When podiatrists renew their registration, they are required to declare on the renewal of registration form whether during the preceding registration period they have met the Board's CPD requirements. The Board may refuse to renew a practitioner's registration if the CPD requirements have not been met.

The Board's requirements for CPD are set out in the *Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard*, which is available on the Board's website under the Registration Standards tab. The Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development* and FAQ's for CPD are also on the Board's website under the Policies, Codes and Guidelines tab.

Practitioners should familiarise themselves with these documents which clearly explain the Board's CPD requirements and ensure that if they have not already met the requirements, that they are progressing towards meeting them by the time they renew their registration.

## CPR component of the Board's CPD requirements

Practitioners are required to hold a current certificate from a Registered Training Organisation, covering CPR; the management of anaphylaxis; and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

The CPR component must be renewed annually.

The other requirements (management of anaphylaxis; and the use of an AED) must be renewed at least every three years.

### **Training Packages for podiatrists with general registration**

- The recommended Health Training Package which covers the minimum requirements of the CPR component for **podiatrists with general registration** (CPR; the management of anaphylaxis; and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)) is called: *Provide Basic Emergency Life Support [HLTFA201A]*.
- There are other training packages that **include** the *Provide Basic Emergency Life Support* content as well as other information and these courses are also acceptable. For example, *Apply First Aid [HLTFA301B]* includes the *Provide Basic Emergency Life Support* content as well as other information.
- The following training packages are therefore acceptable for the purpose of the Board's CPR requirements:
  - Provide Basic Emergency Life Support [HLTFA201A] (recommended)
  - Apply First Aid [HLTFA301B]
  - Apply Advanced First Aid [HLTFA4042B]
  - Apply Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [HLTFA404A]
- The CPR component must be renewed annually and *Perform CPR [HLTCPR201A]* is recommended as the annual refresher course for CPR only. This course does not include management of anaphylaxis and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
- Alternatively, practitioners may wish to undertake the *Provide Basic Emergency Life Support [HLTFA201A]* course annually and therefore update all components annually; however this is not a necessary requirement as management of anaphylaxis and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) are only required to be renewed every three years.

### **Training packages for podiatric surgeons**

- The recommended Health Training Package for **podiatric surgeons**, who are required to have a certificate in advanced life support is *Apply Advanced Resuscitation Techniques HLTFA404A*.

## Website updated

The Board has updated its website to make it easier to navigate and find important information.

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

The Board's new website features clearer menus and intuitive architecture, better access to online services and more information tailored to the podiatry profession. The tabs at the top of the web page provide clear links to relevant information. For example, the Registration and Endorsement tab will lead practitioners to information about registration, including the types of registration and applying for and renewing registration. Information about endorsement for scheduled medicines is also found under this tab, including the Registration Standard, Guidelines and Information Package.

## Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines - Pathway 2

The Board's current *Guidelines for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* came into effect on 15 March 2011.

Podiatrists who are following Pathway 2 towards eligibility for endorsement for scheduled medicines and who commenced their period of supervised practice on or after 15 March 2011 must complete the 40 sessions of supervised practice (as demonstrated by the completion of 40 log sheets) within a 12 month period.

The Board has decided that podiatrists who commenced their period of supervised practice before 15 March 2011 (before the new guidelines came into effect) and request an extension of time to complete the 40 sessions (40 log sheets) will be considered by the Board on a case by case basis. Podiatrists in this category who apply to the Board for an extension of time would need to provide evidence to demonstrate why they were unable to complete the supervised practice within 12 months.

The commencement date for undertaking the period of supervised practice is the date of the Supervisory Agreement as stated in the Board's Information Package: "Prior to the commencement of supervised practice, the applicant must ensure that there is a signed Supervisor Agreement with the Supervisor. 40 log sheets are required to be completed during this period of supervised practice."

## Meeting with the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

The Board recently hosted a meeting in Melbourne with representatives of the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand (PBNZ). The Board welcomed the opportunity to discuss common issues and experiences with the PBNZ and looks forward to ongoing dialogue between the two boards regarding common policies and processes.

## Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at: [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://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

30 August 2011