



Communiqué

Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 26 June 2013

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

Australasian Podiatry Council (APodC) national conference 2013

Representatives of the Board recently attended the APodC conference that was held in Sydney from 2-5 June. The Board welcomed the opportunity to meet podiatrists, podiatric surgeons and students, provide information and answer questions on national registration and the Board's requirements for registration.

The Board participated in a joint presentation with the APodC and the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) on the role of each organisation in the podiatry profession.

Accreditation and approval of podiatry programs of study

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, ANZPAC, in relation to the accreditation and approval of education providers and programs of study for the podiatry profession.

ANZPAC is responsible for accrediting individual programs of study after it is reasonably satisfied that the program of study:

- meets an approved accreditation standard, or
- substantially meets an approved accreditation standard and the imposition of conditions on the accreditation will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

ANZPAC can also refuse to accredit a program of study. ANZPAC is required to give the Board a report after it decides to accredit a program of study (with or without conditions). After being given an accreditation report, the Board may approve, or refuse to approve, the accredited program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration or endorsement. An approval may be granted subject to conditions.

Approval of programs of study at LaTrobe University

The Board approved until 13 June 2018 the accredited Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Podiatric Practice (Pass & Honours) and Master of Podiatric Practice (Pass & Honours) programs of study offered by LaTrobe University as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration as a podiatrist in Australia.

Approval of program of study at the University of Western Australia

The Board approved until 31 October 2014 the accredited Doctor of Podiatric Medicine program of study offered by the University of Western Australia as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration as a podiatrist in Australia.

The Board also approved this program of study until 14 June 2018 as providing a qualification in podiatric therapeutics for the purpose of an endorsement for scheduled medicines in the podiatry profession.

Scheduling on monochloroacetic acid

The Board has been made aware that monochloroacetic acid for human dermal use is a Schedule 4 poison, except when in preparations containing 12.5 per cent or less of monochloroacetic acid for the treatment of warts other than anogenital warts. The reason is that monochloroacetic acid is considered to be a derivative of both acetic acid and trichloroacetic acid. If a substance is a derivative of more than one scheduled poison, the more restrictive scheduling applies. As a result the Schedule 4 entry for trichloroacetic acid in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons applies to monochloroacetic acid for human dermal use.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons have a professional responsibility to ensure that their knowledge and skills are up to date and that this includes keeping up to date with any changes to the authorisation to use particular medicines for the treatment of podiatric conditions. Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are responsible for being familiar and complying with the relevant drugs and poisons legislation in each state or territory in which they work.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons whose registration has been endorsed under section 94 of the National Law are **qualified** to administer, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use the scheduled medicines listed in the Board's National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List. However, the **authority** to do so is determined by the relevant drugs and poisons legislation in the state or territory in which they are working.

Monochloroacetic acid is not currently listed in the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List and the Board will consider whether or not it should be added to the list when the list is next reviewed.

Information about the scheduling of medicines and the contact details for the state and territory drugs and poisons units can be found at www.tga.gov.au/industry/scheduling.htm

If you want to receive e-mail alerts about scheduling changes being considered by the Delegate of the Secretary of the Department for Health and Ageing you can register at www.tga.gov.au/newsroom/subscribe-smp.htm

Consultations

Review of registration standards, guidelines and codes

The first 10 National Boards to enter the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) developed standards, guidelines and codes for its commencement on 1 July 2010. These standards, guidelines and codes are currently under review.

All National Boards have registration standards which define the requirements that applicants, registrants or students need to meet to be registered. There are two registration standards that are common, or largely common, to all National Boards:

- *English language skills registration standard* (largely common), and
- *Criminal history registration standard* (common).

The review of these two standards is being coordinated across all National Boards. Preliminary consultation on these common registration standards has closed and the consultation paper is being finalised before public consultation.

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.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia

5 July 2013

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