

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia held on 23 July 2014

#### Consultation update

##### Thank you for your feedback on the Board's standards and guidelines

The Board's public consultation on the following proposed revised registration standards and guidelines has now closed:

- Professional indemnity insurance registration standard
- Continuing professional development registration standard and related guidelines
- Recency of practice registration standard and related guidelines, and
- Guidelines for infection control.

The Board thanks the members of the profession and other stakeholders who provided feedback on these standards and guidelines.

The Board will consider the consultation feedback on each of these documents before finalising them for approval by the Ministerial Council.

##### Public consultation on draft *Guidelines for the regulatory management of registered health practitioners and students infected with blood-borne viruses*

The Podiatry Board, together with the other National Boards is inviting feedback on guidelines on the regulatory management of health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases. Under the draft guidelines, registered health practitioners with blood borne infectious diseases must comply with the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidance on this issue to ensure their practice does not compromise patient safety.

The National Boards have published a consultation paper, which is accessible from the Board's [consultations page](#). The consultation is open until 26 September 2014.

#### Code of conduct

The Board's *Code of conduct for registered health practitioners* can be found on the [Board's website](#).

Health practitioners have a responsibility to protect and promote the health of individuals and the community and the *Code of conduct* seeks to assist and support podiatrists and podiatric surgeons to deliver effective podiatric care within an ethical framework. Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for good care.

The *Code of Conduct* provides that good practice involves, among other things:

- practising safely and effectively and reflecting regularly on whether you are doing so
- ensuring that you keep your skills and knowledge up to date
- recognising and working within the limits of your competence and scope of practice
- practising in accordance with the current and accepted evidence base of the podiatry profession, including clinical outcomes

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

- considering the balance of benefit and harm in all clinical management decisions
- providing treatment options based on the best available information and not influenced by financial gain or incentives
- communicating effectively with patients or clients and obtaining informed consent for the treatment and care that you provide to your patients or clients, and
- maintaining adequate clinical records.

Podiatrists and podiatric surgeons have a professional responsibility to be familiar with the Board's *Code of conduct* and to apply the guidance it contains.

If professional conduct varies significantly from the *Code of conduct*, practitioners should be prepared to explain and justify their decisions and actions. Serious or repeated failure to meet the requirements of the code may have consequences for registration.

### CPD Reminder

To maintain your professional skills and knowledge you are required to regularly participate in continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to your 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). The CPR component must be renewed annually and the other requirements (management of anaphylaxis; and the use of an AED) must be renewed at least every three years.

In addition to the above requirements, podiatric surgeons must also complete an additional 20 hours of CPD per year related to this scope of practice and hold a current certificate in advanced life support.

Practitioners 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, in addition to the requirements of general registration.

The Board's CPD requirements must be met by the time you renew your registration, which is due by 30 November 2014.

When you renew your registration, you are required to declare on the renewal of registration form whether you 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 published on the Board's [website](#)

The Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development* and FAQ's for CPD are also on the Board's [website](#).

The Board encourages you to read these documents carefully to ensure that you understand the Board's CPD requirements. You need to ensure that you are progressing towards meeting these requirements by the time they renew their registration, if they have not already met them.

### Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the [Board's website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting their profession.

Cathy Loughry  
Chair  
**Podiatry Board of Australia**  
30 July 2014