



Communiqué

June 2016

The Podiatry Board of Australia (Board) meets each month to consider and decide on matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué highlights key matters from the Board's meeting as well as other important information.

June 2016 meeting

The Board held its June 2016 meeting at the Darwin office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The Board met with some of its local stakeholders to coincide with the meeting, which provided an opportunity to discuss issues regarding the National Scheme and local practice.

The Board also held a forum for registrants in Darwin on 23 June 2016 to discuss registration and regulation, which was well attended by local podiatrists. The Chair gave a presentation on the Board's revised [registration standards](#) for continuing professional development; professional indemnity insurance arrangements; and recency of practice as well as a reminder about the Board's [code of conduct](#).

The Board welcomed the opportunity to meet informally with members of the profession from the Northern Territory.

Infection prevention and control

The Board published revised [Guidelines for infection prevention and control](#) in March together with a [self audit tool](#) that practitioners can use to see how well they comply with the Board's *Guidelines for infection prevention and control*.

The Board is pleased to see a high level of downloads of the self audit tool from the Board's website. The Board hopes practitioners will use the tool as a checklist to ensure their workplace is clean and hygienic and they are taking the necessary practicable steps to prevent or minimise the spread of infection.

Practitioners need to read the Board's *Guidelines on infection prevention and control* together with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines before using the tool.

There's an email address at the bottom of the first page of the tool and practitioners are encouraged to provide feedback.

CPD reminder

A revised continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard took effect on 1 December 2015. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

There were minimal changes to the Board's CPD standard. The number of hours of CPD podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are required to undertake each year has not changed and the categories of CPD are largely the same. The Board has maintained flexibility in the standard in that while CPD must be

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

completed from at least two different categories, practitioners have flexibility with regards to what, when, where and how CPD activity may be undertaken. This can include attending podiatry conferences; undertaking online CPD activities; discussing case(s) with health sector peers; and self directed learning such as reviewing relevant research publications or journal articles.

The Board has introduced a requirement that a minimum of five hours of CPD must be in an interactive setting with other practitioners, which can include Skype or video-conferencing.

The requirement for podiatrists to complete training that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), management of anaphylaxis and use of an automated external defibrillator, and for podiatric surgeons to complete training in advanced life support, has been maintained. However, the Board has expanded the approved training organisations that can deliver the training to include a hospital and/or health service.

The Board has also published revised guidelines for CPD and FAQ as well as templates to assist practitioners to plan and record their CPD activities. These can be found on the [policies, codes and guidelines](#) section of the Board's website.

The Board hopes registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons are progressing towards meeting their obligations for CPD to ensure they have met the Board's requirements by the time they renew their registration.

Revised standard for professional indemnity insurance arrangements

The Board's revised registration standard for professional indemnity insurance arrangements came into effect on 1 July 2016. Practitioners must comply with the new standard by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

The key change in the new PII arrangements registration standard is that a minimum amount of cover is no longer specified. The new standard aims to take a more contemporary and flexible approach, and requires registrants who are taking out their own insurance to do an objective self-assessment, informed by policies provided by insurance providers, to ensure they have adequate and appropriate insurance arrangements or professional indemnity cover for their practice.

More information about the new standard can be found on the [Board's website](#).

Revised standard for recency of practice

A revised registration standard for recency of practice was published by the Board in February 2016. It comes into effect on 1 December 2016 and will replace the standard that is currently in place. Practitioners will need to meet the obligations of the revised standard by the time they renew their registration in 2017.

The key change to the Board's recency of practice requirements is that a requirement for minimum hours of practice has been introduced. To meet the new standard practitioners must practise within their scope of practice for a minimum of minimum of 450 hours in the previous three years or 150 hours in the previous 12 months.

More information about the new standard can be found on the [Board's website](#).

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA uses [Twitter](#) to encourage greater discussion about National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons on its [website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting the podiatry profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme please refer to the information published on www.ahpra.gov.au. Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
4 July 2016