



Communiqué

May 2018

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

This communiqué highlights any key matters from the Board's 23 May 2018 meeting as well as other important information.

The Board held its 23 May 2018 meeting at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) office in Sydney.

Meeting with Podiatry Council of New South Wales

New South Wales is a co-regulatory jurisdiction², so the health professionals councils work with the Health Care Complaints Commission to assess and manage concerns about practitioners' conduct, health and performance.

This means complaints about the conduct, performance and health of registered podiatrists, podiatric surgeons and students in New South Wales are managed by the Podiatry Council of New South Wales.

To coincide with the meeting in Sydney, the Board welcomed the opportunity to meet with the President of the Council and discuss common issues in complaints received about podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

Revised registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines takes effect on 1 August 2018

A revised endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and associated guidelines will take effect on 1 August 2018.

The revised registration standard will replace the current standard and will apply to podiatrists and podiatric surgeons applying to have their registration endorsed for scheduled medicines as well as those whose registration is already endorsed for scheduled medicines.

To help the podiatry profession prepare for the revised standard and guidelines coming into effect they have been published in advance and are available on the [Board's website](#).

The Board has also published:

- Information about transitional arrangements for podiatrists and podiatric surgeons who are working towards an endorsement under Pathway 2 of the current registration standard but haven't applied for endorsement when the new standard takes effect on 1 August 2018.
- FAQ which includes information about the changes to the registration standard, guidelines and the *National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List*.
- Flowcharts that provide a snapshot of the two new pathways to endorsement and the transitional arrangements.

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

² A co-regulatory jurisdiction is a jurisdiction which is not participating in the health, performance and conduct process provided by the National Law, but is involved in other parts of the National Scheme

Further information to support the implementation of the new standard will be published on the Board's website on 1 August 2018, when the standard takes effect.

Testimonials in health advertising – a tool to help get it right now available

Advertising about a regulated health service is in breach of the National Law if it includes a testimonial (review, experience, comment and/or statement) that mentions a **clinical aspect**. A new tool to help practitioners and advertisers understand their obligations about using testimonials and reviews to advertise regulated health services is now available.

The testimonial tool is the latest in a series of [resources and support materials](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards to help health practitioners, healthcare providers and other advertisers of regulated health services check and correct their advertising so it complies with the National Law.

The tool includes information and flow charts to help practitioners and advertisers understand why testimonials are not allowed and which reviews or feedback can be used in advertising.

The testimonial tool is now available in the [Advertising resources](#) section of the AHPRA website.

Registration milestone reached

A significant milestone was recently reached when the National Scheme registered its 700,000th health practitioner.

In 2010 over half a million health practitioners registered for the first time under the new National Scheme, with a further four health professions joining the scheme in 2012. This year the number will grow further as paramedics join the National Scheme in late 2018.

At 31 March 2018, there were over 5,100 registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons.

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.

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Cathy Loughry
Chair
Podiatry Board of Australia
5 June 2018