

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) on 9 November 2012 pursuant to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), with approval taking effect from 7 January 2013.

Summary

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) has established this standard in accordance with section 38(1) (c) of the National Law.

Consumers of optometry services have the right to expect that optometrists will provide services in a safe, competent, ethical manner that meets best practice standards. Continuing professional development (CPD) is a means by which optometrists maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives. It involves self-assessment of learning needs and desired outcomes, undertaking a range of activities, and reflection on the activity meeting these learning needs.

All practising optometrists must undertake CPD. This standard sets out the minimum requirements for CPD for optometrists.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all persons who hold general, limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice or limited registration for teaching or research as an optometrist under the National Law. It does not apply to those holding student registration or non-practising registration with the Board.

Requirements

1. Optometrists must complete a minimum of 80 points of CPD activities over two registration periods. This can be met by undertaking accredited, non-accredited activities or a combination of both, as described in the Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*.
2. Of the 80 points over the two registration periods:
 - a minimum of 24 points over two registration periods must be in face-to-face CPD activities
 - 60 of the 80 points over two registration periods must be in clinical CPD activities
- no more than 20 of the 80 points over two registration periods may be obtained by completing activities relating to optical goods and equipment provided by suppliers or manufacturers, and
- 40 of the 80 points over two registration periods must be in education related to endorsement for scheduled medicines for those optometrists endorsed under section 94 of the National Law.
3. In addition to a minimum of 80 points over two registration periods, all registered optometrists must have completed, within the previous three registration periods, training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) provided by or through an approved training provider.
4. Where an optometrist, including a new graduate, has been registered for only part of a registration period, a pro-rata CPD requirement applies.¹
5. Optometrists who have notified the Board of an absence from practice for the majority of, but not more than, one registration period (1 December to 30 November) do not have to meet the CPD requirements for the time that they are not practising the profession.
6. All optometrists must develop and maintain a CPD portfolio that identifies their learning needs and the type of activities they plan to undertake to meet those needs. In addition, this portfolio should include:
 - for accredited CPD activities, a summary record from the Optometrists Association Australia, or any other approved provider, of accredited activities undertaken, and
 - for non-accredited CPD activities, the learning objectives of the activity, how it relates to the individual personal CPD needs, and an evaluation of the activities to determine whether the desired outcomes have been achieved.

Compliance

1. Renewal requirements

All registered optometrists must make a declaration at annual renewal that they have or have not completed the CPD required under this standard *over the previous two registration periods*. Registered optometrists who fail to make such declaration, or who cannot satisfy the requirements, may be refused renewal of their registration and/or endorsement for scheduled medicines.

¹ Pro-rata is not available to optometrists practising part-time or on a casual basis.

2. Audit

In order to determine compliance with this standard, the Board may at any time request a registered optometrist to provide their CPD records for audit by the Board.

3. Notifications

The Board may, in the course of an investigation arising from a complaint against an optometrist, require the registered optometrist to provide their CPD records over at least the previous two registration periods for review by the Board.

4. Consequence of noncompliance

The requirement to complete the CPD under this standard is a mandatory requirement under the National Law. Failure to comply may result in the Board deciding to refuse the renewal of an applicant's registration.

Definitions

Approved training provider is an entity approved by the Board for the purpose of provision of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Details on approved providers are available in the Board's *Guidelines for continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is the technique of rescue breathing combined with chest compressions to temporarily maintain circulation to preserve brain function until specialised treatment is available. (Australian Resuscitation Council)

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Accredited CPD activities mean CPD activities that have been accredited by the Board in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time by the Board and published on the Board's website.

Non-accredited CPD activities mean CPD activities that have not been accredited by Board. Optometrists are able to meet the requirements of this standard by completing non-accredited activities; however, the record keeping requirements are different. (Refer to *Guidelines for continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*.)

Registration period for optometry means 1 December to 30 November.

Associated documents

The following documents are available on the Board's website:

- *Guidelines for continuing professional development for endorsed and non-endorsed optometrists*, and
- *Continuing professional development FAQ*.

Review

This standard will commence on 7 January 2013.

The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

