



**Chiropractic Board of Australia**

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: RECENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2015

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE



## Summary

This registration standard sets out the Chiropractic Board of Australia's minimum requirements for recency of practice for chiropractors.

## Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all registered chiropractors except those with student or non-practising registration.

## What must I do?

This standard sets minimum requirements to maintain recency of practice.

The Board notes the definition of practice and acknowledges two main areas of practice in the profession for the purposes of this registration standard:

- clinical practice is where the practitioner is directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight/supervision of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of a chiropractor whether remunerated or not, and
- non-clinical practice is where a practitioner is not directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight/supervision of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of a chiropractor whether remunerated or not.

### All chiropractors

To meet this registration standard, you must:

- ensure that your knowledge and skills are sufficient for the area(s) of practice you are undertaking, and
- be mindful of the requirements of this standard relevant to your area of practice when transitioning from a non-clinical to a clinical area of practice.

### Chiropractors undertaking clinical practice

If you are undertaking clinical practice, and to maintain your recency of clinical practice, you must:

- a. have carried out at least 450 hours of clinical practice in the previous three years and had no continuous absences from clinical practice that are greater than two years, or
- b. have carried out 150 hours clinical practice in the previous 12 months.

If you satisfy the requirements for recency of clinical practice you will automatically satisfy the requirements for recency in non-clinical practice.

### Chiropractors undertaking non-clinical practice

- a. If you satisfy the requirements for chiropractors undertaking clinical practice, you are deemed to be recent in non-clinical practice.
- b. If you do not satisfy the requirements for recency of clinical practice, to meet the recency of non-clinical practice requirements, you must:
  - have carried out at least 450 hours of clinical and/or non-clinical practice in the previous three years and had no continuous absences from practice that are greater than two years, or
  - have carried out 150 hours non-clinical practice in the previous 12 months.

Meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice does not automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

## Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you do not meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

## What does this mean for me?

### At application

When you apply for registration as a chiropractor, you must meet this registration standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement.

You do not need to meet this registration standard if you are a recent graduate applying for registration for the first time.

### At renewal

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare that you have complied with this registration standard.

### During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

### Evidence

You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

## What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice after taking a break, and you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practise.

### Chiropractors undertaking clinical practice

- Chiropractors seeking to undertake clinical practice who do not satisfy the requirements for recency of clinical practice must meet different requirements, depending on the length of their absence from practice.
- Chiropractors with a continuous absence from clinical practice of between **two and five years and/**

**or due to having insufficient hours of practice,** will be required to complete a period of supervised practice approved by the Board to ensure their safety and recency before independent clinical practice can be carried out.

The length and level of the supervised practice period will be determined by the Board after receiving a submission from the practitioner.

The submission should contain information detailing:

- education
  - experience
  - activities carried out in the previous five years
  - any continuing professional development done, and
  - the work role they wish to undertake.
- Chiropractors with a continuous absence from clinical practice of between **five and seven years,** will be required to successfully complete the practical Observed, Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) taken by overseas-trained practitioners as administered by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia, to ensure their safety and recency before independent clinical practice can be carried out.
  - Chiropractors who do not satisfy the requirements for recency of clinical practice due to a continuous absence from practice **greater than seven years** will be required to successfully complete the written examination and practical Observed, Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) taken by overseas-trained practitioners as administered by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia, to ensure their safety and recency before independent clinical practice can be carried out.

### Chiropractors undertaking non-clinical practice

- Chiropractors who do not satisfy the requirements for recency of non-clinical practice will be required to make a submission to the Board supporting a claim for recency. This submission should contain information detailing their:
  - education

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE



- experience
- activities carried out in the previous five years
- any continuing professional development done, and
- the work role they wish to undertake.

## Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes the possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for chiropractors (section 41 of the National Law).

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

## Definitions

**National Law** means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

**Practice** means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy

development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

**Recency of practice** means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

**Recent graduate** means a person applying for registration on the basis of a qualification for registration that was awarded not more than 12 months prior to the date of their application.

**Scope of practice** means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

**Clinical practice** is when the practitioner is directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of a chiropractor whether remunerated or not.

**Non-clinical practice** is when a practitioner is not directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of a chiropractor whether remunerated or not.

## References

Chiropractic Board of Australia, *Guidelines – Supervision of chiropractors*

### Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

**Last reviewed:** 1 December 2015

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.