



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander health practice
Chinese medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical radiation practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Common FAQs: Continuing professional development

30 October 2015

Why must National Boards have a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) registration standard?

The National Law requires National Boards to develop registration standards about the requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) for registered health practitioners. Continuing professional development is a key way for practitioners to maintain the skills and knowledge they need for safe practice.

When will the new standards come into effect?

The new standards will generally apply from the start of a registration period for simplicity and clarity. Aligning new standards with registration periods helps practitioners, employers and others understand which standard to apply. In some cases, the new standards are very similar to the old standards and there are very few if any changes that practitioners will need to make. This means it is possible to start the new standards sooner. In other cases, e.g. some of the recency of practice registration standards, the changes are more significant so practitioners will have more time to prepare and meet the new requirements.

The new CPD standards will commence at the start of the next registration period and practitioners will need to declare that they have met the standard at the end of this period. The standards will start on:

1. 1 December 2015 for chiropractic, dental, medical radiation practice, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology (renewal declaration by 31 November 2016)
2. 1 June 2016 for nursing and midwifery, and
3. 1 October 2016 for medicine.

This will give practitioners one year to undertake CPD that meets the new standards.

Audit of registration standard requirements

If you are selected for audit, you will be audited against the registration standard that was in effect during the audit period. For example, if you are audited in February 2016 for CPD for the period 1 December 2014 to 30 November 2015, the standard that you will be audited against is the standard that was in effect at that time, not the new standard that started after 30 November 2015.

Evidence for the revised registration standards

National Boards aim to draw on the best available evidence to inform their regulatory work. AHPRA worked with National Boards to commission research about continuing professional development and recency of practice to ensure that the revised registration standards were as evidence-based as possible. In addition, National Boards drew on their regulatory experience with the previous registration standards and benchmarking with other comparable regulators. The literature on CPD and RoP is still developing and doesn't yet provide definitive answers to some issues, such as the ideal amount and type of CPD that

health practitioners should do. However, where the literature does suggest some characteristics of effective CPD, National Boards have aimed to include these in their standards. The Boards will continue to monitor and respond to developments in the literature in future reviews.