

Common FAQs: Professional indemnity insurance

30 October 2015

Why must National Boards have a Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) arrangements registration standard?

The National Law requires National Boards to develop registration standards about the requirements for Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) arrangements for registered health practitioners. Requiring practitioners to have appropriate indemnity insurance arrangements is a part of how the National Scheme protects the public.

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 PII standards will commence:

1. in early 2016 (TBC) for chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and podiatry
2. on 1 June 2016 for nursing and midwifery.

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.