



**Optometry Board  
Ahpra**

**Optometry Board of Australia**

# **Registration standard: Continuing professional development**

**Effective from:** 1 December 2020

This registration standard sets out the Optometry Board of Australia's (the Board) minimum requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) for optometrists.

## Does this standard apply to me?

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

## What must I do?

To meet this standard, you must:

1. complete at least 20 hours of CPD each year that:
  - a. seeks to improve patient outcomes and experiences
  - b. draws on the best available evidence, including well-established and accepted knowledge that is supported by research where possible, to inform good practice and decision-making
  - c. contributes directly to improving your competence (performance, communication and behaviour) and keeping you up to date in your chosen scope and setting of practice
  - d. builds on your existing knowledge
  - e. includes a minimum of five hours CPD in an interactive setting with other practitioners, and
  - f. may include a maximum of five hours' CPD on non-scientific/non-clinical CPD activities (including CPD activities relating to optical goods and equipment) that is relevant to practice and improves the management of patients in some tangible way.
2. complete within the previous three registration periods, training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) provided by or through an approved training provider, and
3. maintain a portfolio of your learning goals, your planned CPD activities and your reflection on how these CPD activities are expected to improve or have improved your practice.

The Board's *Guidelines: Continuing professional development* provide further information about CPD requirements and CPR training.

### Additional requirements for practitioners with endorsements

If you hold an endorsement in scheduled medicines, you must complete an additional 10 hours of CPD in relation to the endorsement.

Further guidance can be found in the Board's *Guidelines: Continuing professional development*.

### Pro rata requirements

If you register part-way through a registration period you must complete five hours of CPD for every three months of registration remaining in the registration period.

## What does not count as CPD?

You may not count education, training, mentoring or supervision required by the Board or a tribunal as part of CPD. e.g. education required by a condition or undertaking.

## Are there exemptions to this standard?

The Board may grant a full or partial exemption or variation from this standard in exceptional circumstances.

The Board's *Guidelines: Continuing professional development* provide further guidance.

# What does this mean for me?

## When you apply for registration

You don't need to meet this standard when you apply for registration in Australia for the first time as an optometrist.

## At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you must declare whether you have complied with this standard.

## During the registration period

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

## Evidence

You must maintain records of your CPD activities for five years.

You must keep evidence (most commonly a certificate of completion)<sup>1</sup> of the most recent CPR training you completed.

If you are audited you may be required to provide your CPD portfolio, CPR certificate of completion or any other information the Board requires.

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

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose a condition or conditions on your registration, or can refuse an application for registration or renewal of registration, if you do not meet a requirement in an approved registration standard for the profession (sections 82, 83 and 112 of the National Law)
- a failure to undertake the CPD required by this standard is not an offence, but may be behaviour for which health, conduct or performance action may be taken by the Board (section 128 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 an optometrist (section 41 of the National Law).

## More information

The Guidelines: Continuing professional development provide more information about how to meet this standard. You are expected to understand and apply these guidelines together with this standard.

## Authority

This standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on 30 June 2019.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the 'Perform CPR' certificate expires after one year but for the purposes of the CPD requirement will be valid for three years.

# Definitions

**Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** is the technique of chest compressions combined with rescue breathing. The purpose of CPR is to temporarily maintain a circulation sufficient to preserve brain function until specialised treatment is available (Australian Resuscitation Council 2016).

**Continuing professional development (CPD)** is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

**CPD portfolio** means information about your CPD plans/goals, the CPD activities you have done, evidence of completing CPD activities and your reflection on their effect on your practice. It can be hardcopy and/or electronic or a combination.

**Interactive** means learning that involves a two-way flow of information and occurs with other practitioners, such as face to face or interactive online education.

**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.

**Reflection** means thinking about what you do in order to improve your learning and practice.

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

# Review

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

**Last reviewed:** 30 June 2019.

This standard replaces the previously published registration standard dated 7 January 2013.