

Policy

Start date: 22 October 2020

Recency of practice requirements: COVID-19 response

Background

National Boards require all registered practitioners except students, recent graduates applying for registration for the first time or practitioners with non-practising registration to meet the relevant recency of practice standard.

This policy applies a temporary modification to National Boards¹ recency of practice registration standards' requirements. This modification has been made in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is this policy for?

This policy applies to applicants who need to renew their registration by 30 November 2020².

This policy does **not** apply to applicants who are applying for registration for the first time such as recent graduates, or to practitioners who hold non-practising registration.

COVID-19 context

National Boards recognise that some practitioners may not be able to meet the recency of practice registration standard requirements because of effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and/or patient numbers and have implemented this policy as a response.

Temporary modification to the Recency of practice requirements

National Boards' recency of practice registration standards require practitioners to complete a minimum number of hours practice over a set period of time³.

Practitioners are strongly encouraged to continue to meet the recency of practice requirements where possible, however the National Boards will not take action if a practitioner who is due to renew their registration by 30 November 2020 declares they are unable to meet the relevant Board's recency of practice registration standard. Practitioners will need to meet the recency of practice standard requirements as set out in the relevant Recency of practice registration standard when they apply for renewal in 2021.

All practitioners are expected to comply with their professional obligations including to recognise and work within the limits of their competence and scope of practice and to maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

When will this policy cease to operate?

¹ This policy does not apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or the Medical Board of Australia's recency of practice registration standards because the 2020 renewal period for these professions has passed.

² Including applications in the late renewal and fast track renewal periods.

³ See the recency of practice registration standard of the relevant National Board for specific requirements.

This policy will operate from the start date until 31 January 2021 unless otherwise specified. After this date this policy will cease to operate, and the usual requirements of the National Boards' recency of practice registration standards will apply.

For more information

Applicants can find out further information about the recency of practice registration standards by visiting the National Board website of the profession they are applying for.

The following pages on the Ahpra website contain useful information for applicants:

[Recency of practice](#)

[COVID-19 updates](#)

For registration enquiries please lodge a [web enquiry on the Ahpra website](#) or call 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9285 3010 (overseas callers).

Document control

Approved by	National Boards
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