

## Registration standard: Specialist registration for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery

Effective date: TBC

This registration standard sets out the Podiatry Board of Australia's requirements for specialist registration for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery<sup>1</sup>.

### Background

Ministerial Council has approved specialist registration for the podiatry specialty of podiatric surgery, with the specialist title of 'podiatric surgeon'.

Under the National Law, practitioners with specialist registration can use the protected title associated with their specialist registration. It is a breach of the National Law for practitioners to use a protected specialist title if they do not have specialist registration in the relevant specialty.

### Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies if you are applying:

- for specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon, or
- to renew your specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon.

### What must I do?

#### When you apply for specialist registration

You must:

1. Meet the requirements for specialist registration as set out in the National Law, including the eligibility requirements in section 57.
2. Provide evidence of having completed a minimum of two years' full-time (or equivalent) general podiatry practice in a clinical setting that:
  - involved practising for a minimum of 35 hours per week in a clinical setting where at least 80 per cent of work as a registered podiatrist involves direct clinical care and management of podiatric pathology, and
  - was completed before you started the program of study that led to the qualification(s) you are relying on to support your eligibility for specialist registration.

The general podiatry practice may be undertaken outside Australia, subject to assessment and approval by the Board.

3. Meet the requirements for general registration as a podiatrist in Australia and any additional requirements for podiatric surgeons as specified in the Board's registration standards, including the Board's *Registration standard: Continuing professional development*.

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<sup>1</sup> Key terms are defined in the *Definitions* section of this standard.

## What does this mean for me?

### At application for registration

You must meet the requirements of this registration standard when you apply for specialist registration.

### At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your specialist registration, you must:

1. complete a renewal of registration application that includes the annual renewal statement in accordance with the provisions in the National Law (section 109), and
2. demonstrate compliance with any conditions or undertakings on your registration.

The Board may require further information, or may require you to undergo an investigation, examination or assessment consistent with section 110 of the National Law to determine whether to renew your registration.

## Period of specialist registration

The Board will initially grant specialist registration for the period until the following 30 November. Thereafter, specialist registration may be renewed for 12 months, with an annual expiry date of 30 November.

## More information

### Qualifications for specialist registration

Section 58 of the National Law sets out the requirements to be qualified for specialist registration.

You are qualified for specialist registration, if you:

- hold an approved qualification for the specialty, or
- hold another qualification the Board considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies to an approved qualification for the specialty, or
- hold a qualification (not referred to above) that is relevant to the specialty and you have successfully completed an examination or other assessment required by the Board for the purpose of registration in the specialty, or
- hold a qualification that qualified you for specialist registration (however described) under the National Law or the corresponding prior Act and you were previously registered under the National Law.

### Overseas qualified podiatric surgeons

If you obtained your podiatric surgery qualifications outside Australia, your qualifications will be assessed as part of your application for specialist registration.

Information about the pathway to registration in Australia for overseas qualified podiatric surgeons, including assessment criteria can be found on the Board's website at [overseas qualified podiatric surgeons](#).

### Register of podiatrists and Specialists register

Practitioners may hold both general registration as a podiatrist and specialist registration as a podiatric surgeon. These practitioners will be included on the Register of podiatrists and the Board's Specialists register.

If you only hold specialist registration, your name is only recorded on the Specialists register.

### Limited scope of practice

If you hold specialist registration, but do not hold general registration, your scope of practice will be limited to your area of specialist practice in podiatric surgery. This will be recorded on the Board's Specialists register.

## What happens if I do not meet this standard?

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

1. The Board can impose a condition or conditions on your registration or can refuse your 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), and
2. Registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings about health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (section 41 of the National Law).

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Ministerial Council on <date>

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

## Definitions

**Approved qualification for specialist registration** means a qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study for the specialty of podiatric surgery. A list of approved programs of study for specialist registration is published on the Board's website at <https://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/>.

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

## Review

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

**Last reviewed:** <date>

This standard replaces the previous specialist registration standard dated 25 February 2015.