

Information for the public: Consultation of the revised National Prescribing Competencies Framework

What is this public consultation about?

We're reviewing the *Prescribing Competencies Framework – Embedding quality use of medicines into practice*, second edition (the framework) to make sure it keeps up with safe and person-centred prescribing. This consultation is about proposed updates to the framework. Your feedback will inform what we include in the next edition.

About the framework

The framework outlines the knowledge, skills and professional attributes that health professionals need to safely and effectively prescribe medicines. It covers four key stages, putting the person receiving care at the centre of the prescribing process. The four stages are:

1. information gathering
2. clinical and shared decision making
3. communication, and
4. monitoring / review.

The framework is mainly used by education providers / universities, accreditation authorities, regulators, departments of health, professional associations and colleges. It is used to support the development and review of education, training and continuing professional development programs, practitioner self-reflection, National Boards' regulatory functions, and the recognition and understanding of the prescribing role.

More information about the framework and its review is available on [our website](#).

What's new?

Proposed updates to the framework include but are not limited to:

- expanding on the person-centred approach, including more emphasis on shared decision-making between the person receiving care and the prescriber
- increasing the focus on people with specific needs, including older people in residential aged care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with mental illness, disability or chronic conditions, and those living in rural and remote areas and other vulnerable groups
- highlighting the importance of considering a person's health literacy when prescribing, and
- ensuring a prescriber is meeting local and national requirements particularly when practising in areas with fast-evolving technologies or with new ways of providing care.

You can access the full revised framework on the [consultations webpage](#).

How does it affect you?

While the framework isn't intended to be used by the public, it puts the person receiving care in the centre of the prescribing process. This approach supports the person to actively participate in decision-making for treatment options and more broadly to support the safe use of medicines.

Your feedback

We want your feedback to inform the next edition of framework. We have developed the below questions specifically for the public. If you would like to participate in the full consultation, the paper and link to the survey can be found on the [Ahpra consultations page](#).

To submit a response for the below questions or provide general feedback to changes to the framework, you can complete the [online survey](#) or email your answers to NPFCReview@ahpra.gov.au.

Consultation is open for 8 weeks and the closing date for responses is **Friday 30 May 2025**.

If you have any queries, you can email us at NPFCReview@ahpra.gov.au or phone us on 1300 419 495.

Questions for consultation

1. The revised framework puts the person receiving care at the centre of the prescribing process, particularly people with specific needs. Do you have any feedback on the framework structure?
2. The revised framework aims to empower a person to actively participate in shared decision-making about treatment options with their health professionals. Do you agree with this? Why/Why not?
3. Is there anything else that the framework should cover for the public or are there other considerations that we may have missed?

Want to know more?

We are planning to run an online information session for the public on Monday 28 April from 10.00 to 11.00am AEST. This webinar will cover the proposed changes to the framework, especially those aiming at better supporting shared decision-making between the person receiving care and the prescriber. You can register to participate [here](#).

Will we publish your response?

Ahpra usually [publish responses on our website](#) to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please tell us if you do not want your response published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, responses that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove personally identifying information from responses, including contact details.

Ahpra can accept responses made in confidence. These responses will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Responses may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential response will be determined in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence.

Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your response or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential. **Published responses will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the response unless confidentiality is requested.**

Who we are and what we do

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) works in partnership with 15 National Boards to ensure that Australia's registered health practitioners are suitably trained, qualified and safe to practise. Public safety is our priority. More information about what we do can be found on the [Ahpra website](#).

Ahpra has been contracted by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to conduct the review of the framework.

Why we consult

By getting feedback from the public on important issues that affect them, we can ensure that the proposed updates meet the needs of the public and ultimately keep them safe. Your views, concerns or expectations for your healthcare will support our work in ensuring that the framework remains fit-for-purpose.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders past and present.