

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

A registered pharmacist must undertake the continuing professional development (CPD) required by this standard. Failure to do so may constitute behaviour for which health, conduct or performance action may be taken.

The requirement for participation in a specified number of CPD credits will be introduced in phases over a period of years, commencing with a minimum requirement.

The Board will assess compliance with the requirement at the annual renewal of registration.

A common framework for weighting of CPD activities will provide guidance for pharmacists and CPD providers.

Scope of application

This standard applies to pharmacists who have general, provisional or limited registration and does not apply to those with non-practising registration.

Requirements

1. Registered pharmacists are required to complete 20 CPD credits for the period ending 30 September 2011, 30 CPD credits for the period ending 30 September 2012, and 40 CPD credits for the period ending 30 September 2013.
2. The CPD activities must:
 - a) consist of education programs, seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, discussion groups, multimedia or website-based programs, or the research and preparation of articles published in pharmacy publications or such other publications relevant to their area of practice, or review of professional journals, or any combination of two or more of the above or self-directed learning consistent with maintenance of competence
 - b) be of significant intellectual or practical content and deal primarily with matters directly related to the practice of pharmacy
 - c) in other than self-directed learning, be conducted by persons who are qualified by practical or academic experience in the material covered
 - d) be relevant to the scope of the registered pharmacist's role as a provider of pharmacy services and to the practice of pharmacy

- e) have an aggregate value of CPD credits equal to or greater than the minimum determined by the Board.

3. The Board will audit compliance with the standard annually using methods determined by the Board.
4. Applicants for renewal of registration will be required to complete a declaration of compliance with this standard.
5. Failure to meet the standard may result in a condition being placed on the pharmacist's registration or renewal of registration being denied.
6. Pharmacists will be expected to self-assess their individual needs with reference to the Competency Standards for Pharmacists in Australia.

Definitions

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

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a pharmacist in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes 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 safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/or use their professional skills.

References

The Board may publish a guideline on how pharmacists can satisfy this standard.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.