



**Physiotherapy Board of Australia**

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: RECENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2016

## Summary

This registration standard sets out the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's minimum requirements for recency of practice for physiotherapists.

## Does this standard apply to me?

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

## What must I do?

To meet this registration standard you must complete:

- a minimum of 450 hours of physiotherapy practice during the three-years before the start of the registration period, or
- 150 hours of physiotherapy practice in the previous registration year.

The standard sets minimum requirements to maintain recency of practice. Meeting these requirements doesn't automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Meeting this registration standard is a requirement of registration for all physiotherapists. During the annual registration renewal process all physiotherapists must declare whether or not they continue to meet this registration standard.

## Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. However, failure to meet this standard does not mean that you are automatically prohibited from returning to practice after a break. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?', explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard and wish to continue or return

to practice. More detailed information is provided in the Board's *Guidelines on recency of practice*.

## What does this mean for me?

### At application

When you apply for registration as a physiotherapist, you must meet this registration standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement.

You don't need to meet this registration standard if you are a recent graduate applying for registration for the first time.

### At renewal of registrations

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare that you have complied with this registration standard.

### During the registration period

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

### Evidence

You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

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

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice after taking a break, and you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practise.

### Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

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- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 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 physiotherapists (section 41 of the National Law).

## Physiotherapy guidelines on reGENCY of practice

The Physiotherapy guidelines on reGENCY of practice provide guidance about how to meet the requirements of the registration standard. You are expected to understand and apply these guidelines together with the registration standard.

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

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

## Definitions

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

**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.

**ReGENCY of practice** means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

**Recent graduate** means a person applying for registration on the basis of a qualification for registration that was awarded not more than 12 months prior to the date of their application.

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

## Review

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

**Last reviewed:** 1 December 2016

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.