



Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander health practice  
Chinese medicine  
Chiropractic  
Dental  
Medical  
Medical radiation practice  
Nursing and Midwifery

Occupational therapy  
Optometry  
Osteopathy  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Psychology

## AHPRA Management Policy – Regulatory Operations

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### Operational Policy: Drug and Alcohol Screening for Health Assessment

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#### Divisions:

All Divisions Regulatory Operations

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the assessment of registrants who have or may have an impairment relating to substance (drug and/or alcohol) abuse and to ensure that the health assessment of registrants consistently meets current evidence based practice in the testing for substances of abuse in health care professionals.

#### Policy statement

Registrants who have or may have an impairment relating to substance abuse and who are required by the National Board to attend for a health assessment will be required to

- undertake the health assessment with an independent medical practitioner with expertise in the treatment of patients with drug and or alcohol disorders, and
- undertake drug and alcohol screening in accordance with the guideline: Drug and alcohol screening for health assessment and Information for Registrants- drug and alcohol screening for health assessments.

Copies of any drug and alcohol screening results will be provided to the independent health assessor to inform recommendations to the National Board in accordance with the guideline.

Interpretation of will be undertaken as guided by the Guideline: Drug and Alcohol Screening for Health Assessment and utilising the Drug and Alcohol Screening checklist:

Any discrepancies in the results of drug and alcohol screening in the course of impairment assessment will trigger an immediate risk assessment in accordance with the checklist.

#### Scope, evaluation and review

This operational policy is established in accordance with *Operational Guidance Framework*. It must be used and complied with by all relevant Regulatory Operations staff.

This operational policy will be reviewed annually.

#### References

- Guideline: Drug and alcohol screening for health assessment
- Support Materials: Information for Applicants and Registrants undertaking drug and alcohol screening for health assessments
- Support Materials: Template: Form: Drug and alcohol screening checklist

#### Policy Sponsors

National Director Compliance

National Director Notifications

National Director Registrations

#### Approved by

Executive Director, Regulatory Operations

**Effective date**

This policy is effective from 10 November 2015 and updated July 2018