



Physiotherapy Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 December 2015

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Summary

This registration standard sets out the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's minimum requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) 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 20 hours of CPD each year
- maintain a portfolio that documents all CPD undertaken and a record of learning aims and reflection of impact on practice, and
- participate in activities that contribute directly to maintaining and improving your competence in your chosen scope of practice.

Pro rata requirements

If you register part-way through a registration period you must complete five hours of CPD for every three months of registration remaining in the registration period.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

The Board may grant an exemption or variation from this standard in exceptional circumstances, such as serious illness or bereavement, that results in a substantial absence from practice.

What does this mean for me?

When you apply for registration

You don't need to meet this standard when you apply for registration in Australia for the first time as a physiotherapist.

When you apply for renewal

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

During the registration period

Your compliance with this standard may be audited from time to time.

Evidence

You should maintain records of your CPD activity for five years in case you get audited. If you are required to provide the Board with evidence of your CPD activities, your personal portfolio will help demonstrate that you have met CPD requirements.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

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

- the Board can impose a condition or conditions on your registration, or refuse an 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)
- a failure to undertake the CPD required by this standard is not an offence but may be behaviour for which health, conduct or performance action may be taken by the Board (section 128 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).

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Guidelines for continuing professional development for physiotherapists

The *Guidelines for continuing professional development* provide more information about how to meet this standard. You are expected to understand and apply the guidelines together with this 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.

Continuing professional development is the means by which members of the profession 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 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.

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

Review

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

Last reviewed: 1 December 2015

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