



Frequently asked questions

1 November 2013

FAQ: Limited registration for physiotherapists

Summary

Three Limited registration standards for physiotherapy were released by the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board) on 18 June 2012; *Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice*, *Limited registration in public interest* and *Limited registration for teaching or research*.

These standards are accompanied by a *Supervision guideline*.

What is the difference between *Limited registration in public interest* and *Limited registration for supervised practice*?

Limited registration in public interest is only to be used for unusual circumstances and no longer includes consideration for workforce shortage.

Limited registration for supervised practice requires all applicants to commence the Australian Physiotherapy Council's (APC) overseas trained physiotherapy assessment process. All applicants must hold a valid *APC Interim Certificate*. You may only practice physiotherapy while you hold a valid APC Interim Certificate. Full details of the assessment are available at www.physiocouncil.com.au.

I only want to practice as a physiotherapist in Australia for limited time on a working holiday. Do I have to apply to the APC for the assessment?

Yes. All applicants for *Limited registration for supervised practice* must apply to the APC for assessment. If you only wish to stay in Australia for a limited time, you can receive the *APC Interim Certificate* apply for limited registration and, once granted, practice for as long as the certificate remains valid.

You do not need to pursue completion of the examination process if you do not wish to work in Australia for longer than the period that the *APC Interim Certificate* is valid for or to attain general registration.

My *APC Interim Certificate* expires before my limited registration expires. Can I keep practicing as a physiotherapist after the certificate expires?

No, you may only practice as long as the *APC Interim Certificate* is valid. If registered under the *Limited registration for supervised practice* category, the notation on the National Register will reflect this.

What are the supervision guidelines?

The National Board has published *Guidelines for supervision for physiotherapy* on the Board's website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au.

The guidelines require a Supervision Plan, agreed to by the applicant and the proposed supervisor, to be submitted with applications for limited registration (or for renewal) for the consideration of the Board.

Important features of the guidelines are standardised format of reporting with standardised reporting times (unless different reporting requirements are set by the Board depending on the circumstance). There are examples of how to fill out the standardised reporting form and instructions about how the supervision guidelines work within the document.

When do the supervision guidelines apply?

These supervision guidelines are relevant wherever supervision is a requirement for registration, for instance when someone is returning to practice after a break, or is making a significant change to their scope of practice. They are relevant to all those with limited registration for supervised practice.

What about *Limited Registration for postgraduate training*?

Whilst this registration category is numbered under the same section of the National Law (i.e. Section 66 Limited registration for Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice), the requirements for each are quite different.

If you are enrolled in a relevant postgraduate program of study, you must be registered for *Limited registration for postgraduate training*. A program will be relevant if its requirements fall within the scope of the Board's guidance to potential registrants outlined in the document "Who needs to be registered?" (available on the Board's website). For example, if you will be required to use the title "physiotherapist" or represent yourself to the public as a physiotherapist, provide restricted practices (e.g.: cervical manipulation) or are required by the program provider to be registered.

The supervision guidelines will not apply to limited registrants for postgraduate training if their practice as a physiotherapist is limited to the program of study only. However, there is provision to practice outside the scope of the program if you meet all the other registration standards and the proposed position is relevant to your postgraduate training program. In this situation, the Board's supervision guidelines will apply and you must adhere to them.

It is important to note that successful completion of a postgraduate program of study does not lead to general registration. Only a qualification from an approved program of study (as listed on the Board's website) or successful completion of the APC overseas trained physiotherapy assessment process enables an applicant to apply for general registration as a physiotherapist.

For more information

- Go to the National Board's website: www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au
 - The Limited registration standards are published under *Registration standards*
 - FAQs on the standards are published under *Codes and guidelines*

- The *Supervision guidelines* are published under *Codes and guidelines*
- Lodge an online enquiry form under *Contact us*
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200