

Communiqué

The 51st meeting of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 30 May 2014 in Sydney.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting, as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

New and revised guidelines, policy and Code of conduct

A reminder to all registered health practitioners that the Board has published:

- revised *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*
- new *Social media policy*
- revised *Guidelines for Mandatory Notifications*, and
- a revised *Code of conduct*.

These guidelines, policy and code came into effect on 17 March 2014, and all registered health practitioners need to meet these new standards.

Consultation on revised standards and guidelines

The Board has published the following standards and guidelines for public consultation:

- *Recency of practice registration standard* and related guideline
- *Professional indemnity insurance registration standard*
- *Continuing professional development registration standard* and related guideline

The Board would be pleased to receive your feedback on these amended documents by **Monday, 30 June 2014**.

Later in 2014, the Board will publish the following revised documents for consultation:

- Limited registration standards (various) and related guidelines
- *Supervision guidelines for physiotherapy*

The Board is seeking broad-ranging input on these revised documents, and will update registrants and the community on progress about the consultation period through this communiqué and in the *News & updates* section of the Board's website.

Audit

AHPRA and the Board have established a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration, they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit helps to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and give important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has started. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and will need to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the registration standards.

Further information will be available soon on the [Board's website](#).

2014 Registrant Survey

Later in 2014, the Board will be conducting a voluntary and anonymous email survey of registered physiotherapists. By conducting this survey, the Board aims to get a better understanding of physiotherapists' knowledge of their obligations under the National Law, as well as the areas on which it might need to provide more guidance.

Look for the link to the anonymous survey in your electronic mailbox in the coming months.

Updating contact details

To check your contact details, go to the [Your Account](#) link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password (please note that your User ID is not your registration number). If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call: 1300 419 495.

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA will be using [Twitter](#) to encourage a greater overall response to National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

Advertising guidelines updated

The Physiotherapy Board and other National Boards have acted on the feedback they received about the *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services (Advertising guidelines)* released in March, and published updated versions on their websites.

The guidelines were edited to make them clearer, noting that:

- under the National Law, testimonials are not allowed when advertising a regulated health service
- the obligations of the National Law about advertising only apply when a regulated health service is being advertised, and
- the National Law is not intended to stop members of the community and patients from discussing their experiences online or in person.

For more information and a link to the guidelines, visit the [News](#) section on the Physiotherapy Board of Australia website.

Conclusion

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as a physiotherapist on our website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more detail or with questions about your registration, please send a web enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Paul Shinkfield

Chair

3 June 2014