



Communiqué

Twenty-first meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 29 July 2011

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At this meeting the Board considered a wide range of issues including Limited registration in the public interest, early proposals in relation to return to practice after a period of absence and further issues in relation to the Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation.

Interim Policy regarding Limited Registration in the Public Interest

Under the National Law limited registration in the public interest is an all-purpose subtype of limited registration for dental practitioners who do not qualify for general or specialist registration, but in order to undertake practise in Australia are required, under the National Law, to be registered by the Board. These dental practitioners will usually be visiting from overseas for a short period and hold relevant qualifications in the division of dental practitioners and want to undertake, for example; clinical presentations, assist in an unexpected situation where a natural disaster has occurred or a pandemic was declared where dental practitioners were urgently needed, or fill a short term locum position or a short term exchange of practice with a dental practitioner. In order to grant Limited registration in the public interest the Board must be satisfied that it is in the public interest for the dental practitioner to practise the profession given the dental practitioner's qualifications and experience.

In considering the above, the Board has agreed to an interim policy position until 30 June 2012:

Overseas qualified dental practitioners, not eligible for general registration in Australia, are not required to have limited registration in the public interest where they are making a presentation, speaking or lecturing which does not involve (hands on) clinical practice. The overseas qualified dental practitioners must not:

- a. undertake clinical practice or supervise dental practitioners in any capacity in Australia; or*
- b. use a protected title under the National Law or hold themselves out as a registered dental practitioner in Australia.*

Prescribing, authorising the use and administering medications

The Board would like to remind:

- *all dentists* when prescribing, authorising the use and administering medications that they must follow legislation and guidelines for the use and administration of those medications; and
- *all other dental practitioners* when administering medications that they must follow appropriate authorisation in legislation and guidelines for the use and administration of those medications.

Revised policy on Certifying Documents

The Board agreed to AHPRA implementing a revised policy on Certifying Documents which will reduce errors in certification, increase the efficiency of the processing of applications for registration and endorsement and reduce a source of applicant/practitioner frustration. Further information on the revised policy will be published on the Board's website in due course.

Meeting between the Board representatives and HWA

At the request of Health Workforce Australia (HWA), representatives of the Board and the HWA Scope of Practice Review Project Team met to discuss the progress of the *HWA review of the scope of practice of dental therapists and dental hygienists* and to provide feedback to the HWA presentation (provided by HWA at the meeting) on the Scope of Practice survey results.

Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement

The Board wishes to highlight the following to dentists who are endorsed for Conscious Sedation or who have applied for Endorsement for Conscious Sedation:

1. The Centre for Resuscitation Education and Simulation Training (Incorporated) (CREST) course (the Update Course) is the only update course currently approved by the Board for dentists endorsed for Conscious Sedation - to attend in each 12-month period. The Board will publish on its website any additional courses it considers equivalent to the CREST course.
2. In this transition phase, all dentists are required to provide the Board, as a part of the application for Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation, with a certificate of attendance at the Update Course in the past 12 months.
3. All dentists wanting to renew their Endorsement in relation to Conscious Sedation at the upcoming renewal period (November 2011) will need to provide evidence (where they have not already done so) of having attended an Update Course in 2011 otherwise their endorsement will not be renewed

The Board reiterates that dentists who have lodged an application for endorsement with the Board (before 30 June 2011) that they may continue to practise in the area of conscious sedation until the application for endorsement with the Board has been finalised.

Upcoming consultations

The Board will release the following consultation documents in the upcoming weeks:

1. *Guideline - Conscious Sedation Area of Practice Endorsement* - Which provides further detail for registrants in relation to the specific practice requirements of the Registration standard for Endorsement in Relation to Conscious Sedation; and
2. *Definition of "practice"* - To key stakeholders (ahead of a proposed wider public consultation process) a common preliminary consultation paper on the *definition of "practice"* together with seven of the ten National Boards (Chiropractic, Dental, Medical, Optometry, Osteopathy, Podiatry and Physiotherapy).

Receiving important information by email

The Board continues to encourage all dental practitioners to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through online services. This will enable AHPRA to contact dental practitioners about important registration information and the Board to contact dental practitioners with important updates for the profession.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
3 August 2011