



Communiqué

Thirty first meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 29 June 2012

The Dental Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory. This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's meeting held in June 2012.

Review of the scope of practice registration standard

As previously advised the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) has written to the Board and advised that Health Ministers noted the Health Workforce Australia *Scope of practice review - Oral Health Practitioners* (the report) at its most recent meeting. The AHWMC has provided the Board with a copy of the report and has asked the Board to provide advice to Health Ministers on the scope of practice and new models of care and training, as part of the Board's review of the *Registration standard - Scope of practice*.

The Board agreed to establish a Scope of Practice Review Committee to provide advice to the Board and to steer the review of the *Scope of Practice Registration Standard*. The standard will be reviewed in the next 12 months and this process will include public consultation.

Board newsletter

The Board released its second newsletter in June 2012. The Board encourages all dental practitioners to continue 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 National Board to contact dental practitioners with important updates for the profession.

Guidelines on Limited Registration

The Board has approved the *Guidelines on Limited registration of dental practitioners for postgraduate training or supervised practice* for publication. The Guidelines will be available on the Board's website in the coming weeks.

The management of healthcare workers with blood-borne viruses and updated *Guidelines on infection control*

In February 2012, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) endorsed guidelines on the management of healthcare workers (HCWs) with blood-borne viruses (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) that were developed by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA). The CDNA guidelines are published at the Department of Health Ageing Website at: [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/E28B5CC8872BE9C5CA2572EC000829EE/\\$File/Guidelines-BBV-feb12.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/E28B5CC8872BE9C5CA2572EC000829EE/$File/Guidelines-BBV-feb12.pdf)

The CDNA guidelines contain useful information to guide HCWs with blood-borne viruses on safe scopes of practice. They define the circumstances when HCWs should not be performing exposure prone procedures. They are also explicit that HCWs infected with BBVs can continue to practise their profession if they do not perform exposure prone procedures and if they have no other co-morbidities that may affect safe practice.

In light of the CDNA guidelines, the Board has updated its *Guidelines on infection control* to reference the CDNA guidelines. The updated versions of the *Guidelines on infection control* will be available on the Board's website.

In addition, the Board (with the other National Boards) has agreed to consider further guidelines on the management of dental practitioners with BBVs, based on the CDNA guidelines but tailored to meet the National Board's requirements as a regulator. The Board will consult on these guidelines when they are developed.

Current consultations:

- **Discussion paper on *Anxiolysis***

The Board has released its *Guidelines – Conscious sedation area of practice endorsement* (the Guidelines) to provide further detail for dental practitioners in relation to the *Registration standard for endorsement* in relation to conscious sedation (the Standard). The Standard and the Guidelines provide clear guidance to dentists who practice conscious sedation and when dentists need to be endorsed by the Board.

The Board is aware however that dental practitioners utilise other forms of sedation and the Dental Board released a *Discussion paper on Anxiolysis* written by Clinical Associate Professor Douglas Stewart. The Board invites interested parties to comment on the paper (by close of business on Friday 20 July 2012) with consideration and relevance to the Board's key function of public protection.

John Lockwood
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
17 July 2012