



Communiqué

Forty fifth meeting of the Dental Board of Australia – 20 September 2013

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

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the National Board's September 2013 meeting.

Review of Scope of practice registration standard

After an extensive consultation process and consideration, the National Board considered a final revised *Scope of practice registration standard* at its meeting. It is currently finalising a position on the post consultation draft. It will continue to keep the profession and government informed of the progress of this draft version. Ultimately as a Registration Standard under the National Law any proposal to change the current Standard is required to be approved by Health Ministers.

As advised in our communiqué in July 2013, we have carefully considered the possible impact of the revised standard to ensure that all dental practitioners are able to continue to work safely and with certainty, within their scope of practice.

The National Board would like to remind all dental practitioners that the current *Scope of practice registration standard* remains in place until a new standard is approved and published.

Compliance with other regulatory requirements

The National Board reminds all dental practitioners to be aware of and comply with ALL relevant regulatory requirements not just those that the National Board develops.

This includes, but is not limited to, those established under state and territory drugs and poisons legislation, radiology legislation and the requirements of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Drugs and poisons legislation

State and territory drugs and poisons legislation sets out the regulatory mechanisms relevant to a dental practitioners' capacity to possess, prescribe/supply and administer medications in Australia.

Consistent with the National Board's *Code of Conduct*, we expect all dental practitioners to make the care of their patient their first concern and to make sure they provide safe care to patients. Dentists' administration, supply and prescription of all medications should be consistent with providing safe dental care and must follow appropriate legislation and guidelines for the use and administration of medications. This should include reference to the National Prescribing Service Quality Use of Medicines (www.nps.org.au).

Dental practitioners who practice across different jurisdictions need to be aware of any variations in legislation that may exist in different states or territories.

Tooth whitening/bleaching

We have published an interim policy that states:

Teeth whitening/bleaching, is an irreversible procedure on the human teeth and any tooth whitening/bleaching products containing more than 6% concentration of the active whitening/bleaching agent, should only be used by a registered dental practitioner with education, training and competence in teeth whitening/bleaching.

It is the ACCC's position that dentists cannot supply patients take-home teeth whiteners above 6%. We advise practitioners to review the ACCC's bulletin published on their [website](#).

This bulletin provides information for consumers about hydrogen peroxide and carbamide peroxide in DIY teeth whitening products for use at home including hazards associated with their use. It also assists suppliers of these cosmetic goods to ensure products they supply are safe and comply with the law.

Botulinum toxin

The National Board supports the use of **Botulinum toxin** by registered dentists with education, training and competence for the treatment of Temporomandibular joint disorder/dysfunction. This is currently the extent of the National Board's support for the use of Botulinum toxin in dental practice.

The Interim Policies of the National Board are available on its [website](#).

Dental practitioner registrant data: June 2013

The National Board is pleased to advise that registrant data for the June quarter is now available on its website at www.dentalboard.gov.au/About-the-Board/Statistics.aspx.

This information provides statistical information on Australia dental workforce.

National Board website

As always, we encourage all dental practitioners to regularly check the website at www.dentalboard.gov.au for information and updates relating to the dental profession.

Registration renewal

Dental practitioners are due to renew their registration by 30 November each year. AHPRA will forward registration renewal information to dental practitioners before this date. The first notices will go out by email in coming weeks.

In preparation for this, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the Your Account tab on the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link above, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
30 September 2013