



Dental Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2015

Summary

This registration standard sets out the minimum requirements of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) for recency of practice for dental practitioners.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all dental applicants and registered dental practitioners who have not practised in a division, specialty or endorsement in the previous five years and are:

- applying for registration in any division, specialty or endorsement
- renewing registration in any division, specialty or endorsement (except those renewing non-practising registration), or
- changing the type of registration from non-practising to practising, or between specialist and general registration or between divisions of the register.

This standard does not apply to students or recent graduates.

What must I do?

Meeting the Board's minimum requirements for recency of practice does not automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

1. Dental practitioners to whom this standard applies need to satisfy the Board's recency of practice requirements.
2. Dental practitioners to whom this standard applies will be assessed by consideration of the following matters:
 - a. the person's registration and practice history
 - b. the period the person has not been practising
 - c. when the person's primary qualification was awarded

- d. the activities related to the practice of dentistry the person has carried out in the last five years
 - e. the person's continuing professional development (CPD) history
 - f. any additional qualifications obtained during the period the person was not practising, and
 - g. the nature of the practice the person is intending to return to.
3. Practitioners will be asked to declare annually when renewing their registration that they have met the recency of practice standard set by the Board. This declaration will be subject to audit.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you do not meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

What does this mean for me?

At application for registration

When you apply for registration as a dental practitioner, you must meet this registration standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement.

You do not need to meet this registration standard if you are a recent graduate applying for registration for the first time.

At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare that you have complied with this registration standard.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

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Evidence

You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice after taking a break, and you do not meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practise.

The Board may require you to undertake any of the activities listed below alone or in combination:

1. education or training
2. mentoring/supervised practice arrangement
3. assessment or examination, and/or
4. CPD activities¹.

Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for dental practitioners (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

¹ The Board has provided guidance in the *Guidelines – Continuing professional development*

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

Definitions

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration on the basis of a qualification for registration that was awarded not more than one year prior to the date of their application.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 December 2015

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.