



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

26 May 2014

Scope of practice registration standard and guidelines

The Dental Board of Australia has released a revised *Scope of practice registration standard* and associated *Guidelines – Scope of practice registration standard*.

You have been sent this email as a registered dental practitioner, as the revised standard and associated guidelines will be directly relevant to your practice.

When will the revised registration standard and associated guidelines come into effect?

The revised registration standard and associated guidelines will come into effect from **30 June 2014** and will replace the previous version of the registration standard. The Board is publishing them early to allow you to familiarise yourself with the requirements before 30 June 2014.

How can I ensure that I understand the revised registration standard and new guidelines?

We are committed to working with the profession over the coming months, to support the implementation of the revised registration standard and new guidelines and ensure all dental practitioners are aware of their obligations and responsibilities.

Scope of practice forums

We will begin running forums in July 2014. All dental practitioners are invited to attend the forum relevant to their jurisdiction. Other Board stakeholders will also be invited to attend the forums.

The forums will be held in:

- Perth on 17 July
- Melbourne on 25 July
- Sydney on 31 July
- Canberra on 1 August
- Adelaide on 7 August
- Hobart on 8 August
- Darwin on 14 August
- Brisbane on 15 August.

Please register your interest by emailing dentalboardforums@ahpra.gov.au with your name, contact details and location of the forum you wish to attend.

What's changed?

The amendments to the registration standard and the associated guidelines provide better clarity and certainty to all dental practitioners on the scope of practice for the different divisions, and the level of education and training expected for each division. The term 'supervision' has been removed and a definition of a 'structured professional relationship' has been included. Where there is a structured professional relationship or referral relationship, the dentist is the clinical team leader.

What must I do?

You should read the standard and guidelines published on [the Board's website](#).

All dental practitioners are members of the dental team who exercise autonomous decision-making within their particular areas of education, training and competence, to provide the best possible care for their patients. The standard provides details about which dental practitioners can practise as independent practitioners.

Dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment:

- a) for which they have been educated and trained in programs of study approved by the National Board, and
- b) in which they are competent.

You as a dental practitioner must not direct any person, whether a registered dental practitioner or not, to undertake dental treatment or give advice outside that person's education or competence.

We have published an [FAQ](#) to support the implementation of the registration standard and guidelines and to highlight the key changes. The FAQ will be updated progressively to answer questions about emerging issues in relation to the registration standard and guidelines.

How did the Board conduct the review?

As a part of the review process, we consulted widely with all stakeholders. This included conducting a forum with key national organisations relevant to us, and those national organisations which represent the dental divisions on the register, to provide advice on proposed amendments to the registration standard; preliminary and public consultation. We reviewed all feedback and considered this in revising the registration standard and associated guidelines.

How to contact the Board

- The Dental Board of Australia and AHPRA may be contacted by phone on 1300 419 495.
- Information about the Board is available at www.dentalboard.gov.au
- An online enquiry form is available under *Contact Us*.
- Mail correspondence can be addressed to Dr John Lockwood, Chair, Dental Board of Australia, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne, Vic 3001.

How the Board can stay in touch with you

To check that your contact details registered with AHPRA are up to date, go to the 'Your Account' link at the top right of the Board website, 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 phone 1300 419 495.

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