

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

To ensure that they are able to practise competently and safely, medical practitioners must have recent practice in the fields in which they intend to work during the period of registration for which they are applying.

The specific requirements for recency depend on the field of practice, the level of experience of the practitioner and the length of absence from the field.

If a practitioner proposes to change their field of practice, the Board will consider whether the practitioner's peers would view the change as a normal extension or variation within a field of practice, or a change that would require specific training and demonstration of competence.

Practitioners who are unable to meet the recency of practice requirements set out below will be required to submit a plan for re-entry to practice for the Board's consideration and may be required to complete specific education

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for medical registration and registered medical practitioners, including those in nonpractising categories, who are applying for registration in any practising category.

It does not apply to medical students, applicants for provisional registration who will be undertaking an approved internship or medical practitioners who are applying for, or renewing, nonpractising registration.

Requirements

1. For practitioners returning to practice within their previous field, provided they have at least two years' experience prior to the absence:
 - a) Absence less than one year — no specific requirements to be met before recommencing practice.
 - b) Absence between one and three years — complete a minimum of one year's pro rata of CPD activities relevant to the intended scope of practice prior to recommencement designed to maintain and update knowledge and clinical judgement.
 - c) Absence greater than three years — provide a plan for professional development and for re-entry to practice to the Board for consideration. Refer also to 5(c) of the Board's 'Continuing professional development' registration standard.
2. For practitioners returning to practice after an absence of 12 months or longer, and who have had less than two years' experience prior to the absence — required to commence work under supervision in a training position approved by the Board.
3. For practitioners changing field of practice:
 - a) If the change is to a subset of current practice, there are no requirements.
 - b) If the change is an extension of practice that the practitioner's peers might reasonably expect from a practitioner in that field, the practitioner is required to undertake any training that peers would expect before taking up the new area of practice.
 - c) If the change is to a different field of practice, the practitioner will be required to consult with the relevant specialist college and develop a professional development plan for entering the new field of practice for the consideration of the Board.

Definitions

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

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.