

Authority

This standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council in December 2011 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act*, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), with approval taking effect from 1 July 2012.

Summary

All registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are required to participate regularly in continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

All registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners will be required to undertake CPD activities and maintain records of their CPD activities from 1 July 2012.

Scope of application

This standard will apply to all registered practitioners from 1 July 2012. It will not apply to those with student registration or non-practising registration.

Requirements

1. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners will be asked to declare annually on renewal of registration that they have met the CPD standard set by the Board. This declaration may be subject to audit.
2. Practitioners must hold a current first aid certificate which includes cardio pulmonary resuscitation.
3. Practitioners must complete a minimum of 60 hours of CPD activities over a three year cycle, with a minimum of 10 hours in any one year.
4. Of the 60 hours over three years, at least 45 hours are required to be formal CPD activities. The remainder may consist of informal CPD activities.
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are required to ensure that their CPD activities are able to be recorded and these records produced when the Board requires them to do so as part of an audit investigation. A sample of how to record CPD activities is provided in the guideline for continuing professional development.
6. Records must be kept for four years.
7. CPD activities should be relevant to the context of the practitioner's practice and the employing organisation.

Some examples of CPD include, but are not limited to:

Formal learning activities such as accredited courses, conferences, forums, seminars, undertaking research and presentation of work, online learning and in-service workplace programs.

Informal learning activities such as self-study of reference material, clinical case discussion with other health professionals, and internet research.

Failure to comply

A failure to comply with this CPD standard is a breach of the National Law and may constitute behaviour for which health, conduct, or performance action may be taken under the National Law section 128(2).

Definitions

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner means a person registered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia. The practitioner may use the titles:

- Aboriginal health practitioner,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, or
- Torres Strait Islander health practitioner.

Continuing professional development (CPD) is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the registrant uses their skills and knowledge in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the direct provision of clinical care. It also includes 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 safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/or use their professional skills.

Review and implementation

This standard will commence on 1 July 2012.

Prior to 1 July 2015, practitioners will be required to complete a minimum of 10 CPD hours in any one year and 60 hours in total over a three year cycle.

When a practitioner registers for the first time, or has his or her registration restored after it has lapsed, the number of CPD hours to be completed will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

During this period, the requirement for all practitioners to hold a current first aid certificate will continue to apply.

The Board will review this standard at least every three years.