

## Communiqué

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The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Optometry Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 28 March 2013 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne.

This communiqué outlines the issues and decisions from this meeting as well as other points of interest.

We publish this communiqué on our website and email it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

### Consultations

#### Current consultations

We have released a consultation document on the following key regulatory policies:

- *Code of conduct for optometrists*
- *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*
- *Guidelines for the advertising of regulated health services, and*
- *Social media policy.*

These are critical documents that apply to optometrists, as employees or employers.

We encourage you to review the consultation document published under the *News* tab on the Board's website and provide your feedback by 30 May 2013.

#### Revised *Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines*

The Board has approved revised *Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines*.

These guidelines contain important information you need when administering scheduled medicines for diagnostic purposes or, if your registration is endorsed for scheduled medicines, prescribing scheduled medicines. The guidelines are published under the *Policies, codes and guidelines* tab of the Board's website and replace the previous version.

If your registration is endorsed for scheduled medicines, the revised guidelines enable you to initiate and implement management (in the form of eye drops) of patients diagnosed with chronic glaucoma or who are at high risk of developing the disease. This change is an important step in increasing access to quality eye health care.

A fact sheet about the revised guidelines has also been published under the *Policies, codes and guidelines* tab of the Board's website.

### Communication

We are conscious of the importance of providing you with clear and current information so you understand and can meet your responsibilities as a registered health practitioner.

The key activities for the Board include:

- this monthly communiqué
- a twice yearly electronic newsletter
- direct email communication when significant changes are implemented, and
- presentations at professional events.

Each registered practitioner is responsible for keeping up to date with the requirements for registration. In addition to the updates the Board provides in the formats listed above, you have a responsibility to familiarise yourself with the content of the Board's registration standards, codes and guidelines.

For example, did you know that all the information about the Board's CPD requirements are published in one place on the Board's website – in the *Continuing professional development* section under the *Policies, codes and guidelines* tab?

One of the main focuses for AHPRA in the coming year is revising the layout of the AHPRA and National Board websites. We hope that progressive changes will help you be aware of the obligations you must meet.

### **Conclusion**

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of you as an optometrist on our website at [www.optometryboard.gov.au](http://www.optometryboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

### **Colin Waldron**

Chair, Optometry Board of Australia

8 April 2013