



Guidelines for Infection Control

December 2011

Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Osteopathy Board of Australia under Section 39 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory. They aim to guide osteopaths about infection control. These guidelines can be used in proceedings under the National Law as evidence of what constitutes professional conduct or practice for osteopathy under Section 41 of the National Law.

The relevant sections of the National Law are attached.

Who needs to use these guidelines?

These guidelines are developed to provide guidance to osteopaths and those seeking to become registered in the osteopathy profession. It applies to all osteopaths who perform clinical treatment. These guidelines address effective infection control practice.

Infection control

It is critical for osteopaths to practise effective infection control.

The Board adopts the National Health and Medical Research Council *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare* at this link:

[NHMRC \(2010\) Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare, Commonwealth of Australia](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au) (www.nhmrc.gov.au)

Links to this document are also found at the Codes and Guidelines section of the Board's website (www.osteopathyboard.gov.au). A Supplementary paper and FAQ are also found at the Board's website.

Date of issue: 19 December 2011
Date of review: This guideline will be reviewed at least every three years

Attachment A

Extract of relevant provisions from the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*¹

Division 3 Registration standards and codes and guidelines

39 Codes and guidelines

A National Board may develop and approve codes and guidelines—

- (a) to provide guidance to the health practitioners it registers; and
- (b) about other matters relevant to the exercise of its functions.

Example: A National Board may develop guidelines about the advertising of regulated health services by health practitioners registered by the Board or other persons for the purposes of section 133.

40 Consultation about registration standards, codes and guidelines

- (1) If a National Board develops a registration standard or a code or guideline, it must ensure there is wide-ranging consultation about its content.
- (2) A contravention of subsection (1) does not invalidate a registration standard, code or guideline.
- (3) The following must be published on a National Board's website—
 - (a) a registration standard developed by the Board and approved by the Ministerial Council;
 - (b) a code or guideline approved by the National Board.
- (4) An approved registration standard or a code or guideline takes effect—
 - (a) on the day it is published on the National Board's website; or
 - (b) if a later day is stated in the registration standard, code or guideline, on that day.

41 Use of registration standards, codes or guidelines in disciplinary proceedings

An approved registration standard for a health profession, or a code or guideline approved by a National Board, is admissible in proceedings under this Law or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction against a health practitioner registered by the Board as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional conduct or practice for the health profession.

¹ The National Law is contained in the schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*