

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

This standard sets out the requirements for recency of practice for osteopaths to ensure that registrants maintain professional involvement that supports safe and competent practice.

Recency of practice is related to an osteopathic practitioner's domain of practice, which may include clinical practice, academic practice or another domain that involves the use of osteopathic knowledge and skills. The standard makes an important distinction between clinical and nonclinical domains of practice.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for initial registration or renewal of registration. It does not apply to students and practitioners who have nonpractising registration.

A graduate who applies for initial registration within six months of completing an approved program of study is exempt from this standard. However, he or she will be required to complete the pro-rata equivalent of 400 hours of practice in the first three years of registration.

Requirements

1. Applicants and registered practitioners who have practised for at least 400 hours in their current domain of practice as an osteopath in the previous three years will meet the standard for registration or reregistration as an osteopath.
2. A registered practitioner must undertake at least 400 hours of clinical practice in the previous three years in order to maintain recency of practice in the clinical domain. For example, an osteopath who has been working as an academic (including clinical supervision) but has not undertaken clinical practice would not meet this standard.
3. Registered practitioners will be required to sign a declaration each year when renewing their registration that confirms that they are complying with this standard.
4. In assessing applications that do not meet this standard, the Board will consider:
 - a) length of absence from the workforce
 - b) amount and standard of continuing professional development (CPD) undertaken during the period of absence
 - c) level of experience prior to absence (including duration of prior practice)
 - d) reason for absence (e.g. caring, illness, study leave)
 - e) other activities undertaken during absence.
5. The Board may require a person who does not meet this standard, depending on the circumstances, to:
 - a) undertake an assessment of their competency to practise, or
 - b) practise under supervision, or
 - c) undertake specified amounts or types of CPD before returning to practice, or
 - d) undertake any other activity specified by the Board.
6. Applicants who apply for registration or renewal of registration between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011 will have until 30 June 2012 to meet the requirements of this standard.

Definitions

Clinical practice means direct clinical care of patients, using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of the osteopathic profession, whether remunerated or not, and regardless of job title.

Nonclinical practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession, except for the provision of direct clinical care. It includes working 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 and/or use their professional skills.

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 working 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 and/or use their professional skills.

Recency of practice means that a practitioner has maintained recent practice in the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

Review

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

