



Consultation paper on: Guidelines for Infection Control



Introduction

This consultation paper has been developed under the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory. The National Law empowers National Boards to develop registration standards for Ministerial Council approval. It also empowers National Boards to develop and approve codes and guidelines to provide guidance to the health practitioners a Board registers and about other matters relevant to the exercise of Boards' functions.

The National Law includes a requirement for National Boards to ensure there is wide ranging consultation on proposed registration standards, codes and guidelines.

The Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) developed guidelines which take into consideration *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare*, produced by the Commonwealth of Australia. Other Boards have developed similar guidelines to maintain consistency with the Commonwealth's guidelines.

The Board welcomes feedback and peer review of its proposals.

If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked 'Attention: Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia' to chair@osteopathyboard.gov.au by close of business on **Friday, 26 August, 2011**.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.



Guidelines for Infection Control

July 2011

Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Osteopathy Board of Australia under Section 39 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law). The guidelines provide guidance to osteopaths about infection control. This guidance 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)

Date of issue: 5 July 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*