

Osteopathy Board of Australia

REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2015

Summary

This registration standard sets out the Osteopathy Board of Australia's minimum requirements for recency of practice for osteopaths.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all registered osteopaths except those with student or non-practising registration.

What must I do?

To meet this registration standard you must have practised as an osteopath in your current domain of practice for at least 450 hours in the previous three years.

Specifically, to work in clinical practice, you must have carried out at least 450 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 but has not carried out clinical practice or clinical supervision would not meet this standard).

The standard sets minimum requirements to maintain recency of practice. Meeting these requirements doesn't automatically satisfy your professional and ethical responsibilities to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence and maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

Are there exemptions to this standard?

There are no exemptions to this standard. The section below, 'What happens if I don't meet this standard?' explains what you need to do if you don't meet this standard and wish to continue or return to practice.

What does this mean for me?

At application

When you apply for registration as an osteopath, you must meet this registration standard. This includes practitioners who are applying for new or additional types of registration, such as changing from non-practising to general registration or applying for an endorsement. It also applies to those who change their domain of practice.

You don't need to meet this registration standard if you are a recent graduate applying for registration for the first time within 12 months of completing an approved program of study as you are exempt from this standard. However, you will be required to complete the pro-rata equivalent of 450 hours of practice in the first three years of registration.

At renewal or registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare that you have complied with this registration standard.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

Evidence

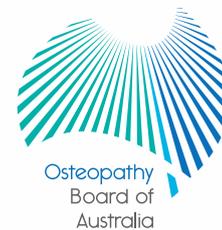
You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you want to continue to practise, or return to practice after taking a break, and you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide whether you are able to continue to practise.

In assessing applications that do not meet this standard, the Board will consider:

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- length of absence from the workforce
- amount and standard of continuing professional development (CPD) carried out during the period of absence
- level of experience prior to absence (including duration of prior practice)
- reason for absence (e.g. caring, illness, study leave), and
- other activities carried out during absence.

The Board may, depending on the circumstances, require a person who does not meet this standard to:

- undertake an assessment of their competency to practise
- practise under supervision
- undertake specified amounts or types of CPD before returning to practice, or
- undertake any other activity specified by the Board.

Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard, including that:

- the Board can impose conditions on your application for registration or renewal of registration or can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for osteopaths (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38

of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

More information

More information for osteopaths about the requirements of this standard is available from *Information for osteopaths: Satisfying recency of practice and returning to practice requirements*, which may assist health practitioners to understand the registration standard, its purpose and requirements.

Definitions

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (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 the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Clinical practice means direct clinical care or oversight of 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.

Recency of practice means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration on the basis of a qualification for registration that was awarded not more than 12 months prior to the date of their application.

Scope of practice means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

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Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

Last reviewed: 1 December 2015

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.