



Communiqué

The 57th meeting of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 17 October 2014. The Board is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Board's meeting. The Board publishes this communiqué on our website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Interim policy on use of botulinum toxin

The Board continues to work on the review of the Interim policy - use of botulinum toxin and associated fact sheet on Obligations of dentists for using Botulinum toxin (BTX) and dermal fillers.

While this work continues the Board has removed the documents from its website.

The Board has removed the documents understanding that the public remains protected by the Board's existing regulatory policies particularly the Scope of practice registration standard and associated guidelines, and the Code of Conduct and various Commonwealth and State legislation.

Dentists using agents such as botulinum toxin and dermal fillers in their practice are expected to do so in consideration of the requirements of the Board and other regulatory authorities. Prescribing under legislation in most jurisdictions must be for dental treatment only. Specifically dentists and specialists must ensure that they have undertaken education and training in the use of these agents; that they are competent in the use of the agents; and that there is documented informed and financial consent.

For dentists, including dental specialists, the Board considers the approved program of study that qualifies a dentist for registration as providing the foundation knowledge. Further training and study in the use of facial injectables can maintain competency and knowledge in the prescription and administration of Scheduled Medicines. This can be done through continuing professional development (CPD).

There is no approved training for dental prosthetists, dental hygienists, dental therapists or oral health therapists in the use of botulinum toxin or dermal fillers. Jurisdictions' drugs and poisons legislation do not authorise the use of these agents by these dental practitioners. Any use of botulinum toxin or dermal fillers by these practitioners would be considered as practising outside of the practitioner's scope of practice.

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Part of the review of these documents has involved liaison with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA is part of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and is responsible for regulating therapeutic goods including medicines, medical devices, biological, blood and blood products.

'Off-label' use

TGA approved indications for scheduled medicines are published in the [Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods](#).

The practice of healthcare practitioners prescribing scheduled medicines outside of their approved indications (i.e. the indications entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods) is a matter for healthcare practitioners, who are not regulated or controlled by the TGA.

The use of a medicine outside the approved indication/s for supply is often referred to as 'off label' use. The TGA does not assess 'off-label' uses and they are therefore regarded as experimental.

A dentist using botulinum toxin in their practice should be familiar with the approved indications of this scheduled medicine. For example, the use of botulinum toxin for the treatment of Temporomandibular joint disorder/dysfunction is considered to be 'off-label'.

If a dentist does decide to use a scheduled medicine 'off-label' then this is a clinical judgement that should be made in consultation with their patient.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – 3 year review

Health Ministers have initiated a scheduled review on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The independent consultation paper for the three year review of the National Scheme has been published and considers the National Scheme as a whole, including the work of National Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities, and the role of governments.

The consultation period has now closed.

The review team expects to make its recommendations early in 2015, which will then be subject to final decisions by all health ministers.

Frequently asked questions - Scope of practice

The Board has published the revised [FAQ's](#) on its website to help dental practitioners understand what they need to do to comply with the Scope of practice registration standard and Guidelines for scope of practice.

Renewing your registration

Online renewal of registration is now open for general, specialist or non-practising dental practitioners.

About 20,300 dental practitioners who are due to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November can [submit an online application now](#).

Under the National Law, all registered health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year.

A series of reminders to renew your registration will be sent to your registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The reminders include a link to online renewal.

Please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA by following the prompts from the [Board](#) or [AHPRA](#) homepage.

The Board recommends that you ensure communications from AHPRA and the Board are not sent to your email account's junk box.

Calls for applications for National Boards regulating health practitioners across Australia

Applications are now sought for appointments to upcoming vacancies for National Board chairs (from practitioner members), practitioner members and community members.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, under the National Law. Terms are expected to commence around August 2015. Appointments and reappointments are up to three years as decided by Ministerial Council.

More information about the roles and the application process is included in the [application form and guide](#) available on the AHPRA website.

Calls for applications for appoint to Dental Board health, performance and professional standards hearing panels

The Board invites applications from experienced dental practitioners interested in being included on a list of approved persons for appointment to panels to assist the Board in its primary role of protecting the public.

The Board is seeking applications from dental practitioners with general dental practice registration with a minimum of three years current and recent experience. The Board is seeking applicants who preferably have teaching experience in dental or oral health programs of study and/or the development and delivery of continuing professional development programs. The Board will consider applicants who do not have teaching experience.

Applicants are being sought from practitioners who reside in the following states and territories:

- ACT
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

More information about the panel member role and the application process is included in the [application form and guide](#) available on the AHPRA website.

Obligations of dental practitioners regarding use of title

The National Law allows for and protects specialist titles and endorsements. A registered health practitioner who does not hold specialist registration may not use the title 'specialist', or through advertising or other means, present themselves to the public as holding specialist registration in a health profession.

While the National Law protects specific titles, use of some words (such as 'specialises in') may be misleading or deceptive as patients can interpret the advertisements as implying that the practitioner is more skilled or has greater experience than is the case.

The list of approved specialties is available on the [National Board's website](#).

The National Board recommends considerable care be taken by any practitioner who uses a title which could reasonably induce a belief in a member of the public that a practitioner is registered in a health profession or division of a health profession, unless they have a demonstrable right to use that title.

John Lockwood AM
Chair, Dental Board of Australia
5 November 2014