

National Board's Statement of assessment against the AHPRA *Procedures for development of registration standards and COAG principles for best practice regulation*

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has *Procedures for the development of registration standards* which are available at: www.ahpra.gov.au

These procedures have been developed by AHPRA in accordance with section 25 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) which requires AHPRA to establish procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice.

Below is the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (the National Board) assessment of the proposed the **Registration Standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership** (the registration standard) against the three elements outlined in the AHPRA procedures.

1. The proposal takes into account the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles set out in section 3 of the National Law

Board assessment

The National Board considers that the development of the registration standard meets the objectives and guiding principles of the National Law and will support workforce flexibility.

In addition, the following were considered in determining if there is a need for the endorsement:

- circumstances in which a registered nurse (RN) would prescribe medicine
- the drugs and poisons legislative requirements in the states and territories, and
- the education required to prescribe medicines.

2. The consultation requirements of the National Law are met

Board assessment

The National Law requires wide-ranging consultation on proposed registration standards. *The National Law also requires the National Board to consult other National Boards on matters of shared interest.*

The National Board will ensure that there is public exposure of its proposal and there is the opportunity for public comment by undertaking an eight week public consultation process. This process includes the publication of the consultation paper (and attachments) on its website.

The National Board has drawn this paper to the attention of the 14 other National Boards, and key stakeholders. The National Board will take into account the feedback it receives when finalising its proposal for submission to the COAG Health Council for approval.

3. The proposal takes into account the COAG Principles for Best Practice Regulation

Board assessment

In considering the development of the registration standard the National Board has taken into account the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *Principles for Best Practice Regulation*.

As an overall statement, the National Board has taken care not to propose unnecessary regulatory burdens that would create unjustified costs for the profession or the community.

The National Board makes the following assessment specific to each of the COAG Principles expressed in the AHPRA procedures.

A. Whether the proposal is the best option for achieving the proposal's stated purpose and protection of the public

Board assessment

It is the National Board's view that the development of the registration standard is the best option for achieving the stated purposes.

The National Board considers the development of the registration standard, if approved, would allow RNs to prescribe medicines in partnership to members of the public in accordance with relevant state and territory drugs and poisons legislation. Enabling endorsed RNs to prescribe in partnership will safely and appropriately improve timely access to medicines for consumers and contribute to meeting the increased demand for health services.

B. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of competition among health practitioners

Board assessment

The National Board considered whether the development of the registration standard could result in an unnecessary restriction of competition among health practitioners. The National Board considers the development of the standard will not result in a restriction of competition.

C. Whether the proposal results in an unnecessary restriction of consumer choice

Board assessment

The National Board considers consumer choice will be improved by the development of the registration standard. Consumers will have the opportunity to have medicines safely and appropriately prescribed by an endorsed RN in partnership with an authorised health practitioner in accordance with state and territory legislation.

D. Whether the overall costs of the proposal to members of the public and/or registrants and/or governments are reasonable in relation to the benefits to be achieved

Board assessment

The NMBA considered that the overall costs of the proposal to members of the public, registrants and governments will be minimal. Any likely costs are appropriate when offset against the cost benefits realised as a result of the development of the registration standard such as improved timely and appropriate access to medicines.

E. Whether the requirements are clearly stated using 'plain language' to reduce uncertainty, enable the public to understand the requirements, and enable understanding and compliance by registrants

Board assessment

The National Board considers that the information about the registration standard has been written in plain English that will enable the public and health practitioners to understand. However, the National Board is open to hearing from stakeholders about whether the clarity can be improved.

F. Whether the Board has procedures in place to ensure that the proposed registration standard, code or guideline remains relevant and effective over time

Board assessment

If approved, the National Board will monitor the impact of the registration standard and will revise the standard at regular intervals to ensure it remains current.