



Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander health practice  
Chinese medicine  
Chiropractic  
Dental  
Medical  
Medical radiation practice  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Occupational therapy  
Optometry  
Osteopathy  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

## Common FAQs: continuing professional development

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### **Why must National Boards have a continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard?**

The National Law requires National Boards to develop registration standards for continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for registered health practitioners. Continuing professional development is a key way for practitioners to stay up-to-date and maintain the skills and knowledge they need to practise safely.

### **When will the revised standards come into effect?**

The revised standards generally apply from the start of a registration period for simplicity and clarity. Aligning revised standards with registration periods helps practitioners, employers and others understand which standard applies.

The revised CPD standards will be effective from the start of the next registration period and practitioners will need to declare they have met the standard at the end of that period. This excludes optometrists who will apply the revised standard in the next registration period.

The revised standards will be effective from:

1. December 2019 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic and occupational therapy (renewal declaration by 31 November 2020).
2. December 2020 for optometry (renewal declaration by 31 November 2021).

This will give practitioners (other than optometrists) one year to meet the revised CPD standard.

### **Audit of registration standard requirements**

If you are selected for audit, you will be audited against the registration standard that was in effect during the audit period. For example, if you are audited in February 2020 for CPD for the period 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019, the standard you will be audited against is the standard that was in effect at that time, not the revised standard that was effective after 30 November 2019.

### **Evidence for the revised registration standards**

National Boards aim to use the best available evidence to inform their regulatory work. AHPRA worked with National Boards to commission research about continuing professional development to ensure the revised registration standards were as evidence-based as possible.

Additionally, National Boards drew on their regulatory experience with the previous registration standards and benchmarking with other comparable regulators. The research on CPD is still developing and doesn't yet provide definitive answers to some issues, such as the ideal amount and type of CPD that health practitioners should do. However, where the research does suggest some characteristics of effective CPD, National Boards have aimed to include these in their standards. The Boards will continue to monitor and respond to developments in research in future reviews.