

# Guidelines for infection control

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Podiatry  
Board of  
Australia

## Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Podiatry Board of Australia under Section 39 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law<sup>1</sup> (the National Law). The guidelines provide guidance to podiatrists about infection control. This guidance can be used in proceedings under the National Law as evidence of what constitutes professional conduct or practice for podiatry 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 podiatrists and those seeking to become registered in the podiatry profession. It applies to all podiatrists as well as to podiatry students who perform clinical treatment. These guidelines are strongly recommended for podiatric assistants who perform clinical treatments.

These guidelines address effective infection control practice.

## Infection control

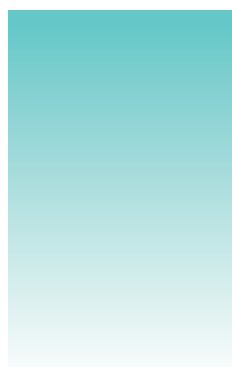
It is critical for podiatrists to practise effective infection control.

The Board adopts the National Health and Medical Research Council *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare*. Links to this document are found at the Codes and Guidelines section of the Board's website [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au).

Date of issue: 1 July 2010

Date of review: This guideline will be reviewed at least every three years

Last reviewed:



<sup>1</sup> the National Law is contained in the schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)*

### Attachment A

## Extract of relevant provisions from the *Health Practitioners Regulation National Law Act 2009*

### 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.