



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

Communiqué – Prescribing Working Group

13 November 2014

Working group to focus on regulatory policy for the prescribing of medicines

A new working group that will focus on the prescribing of medicines by registered health practitioners has been formed by the Chairs of National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) and met for the first time today in Melbourne.

The Prescribing Working Group (PWG) will review and advise on regulatory policy related to the prescribing of medicines by registered health practitioners. The role of the group does not include recommending new prescribing rights for health professionals.

The PWG consists of representatives from the National Boards, the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum, NPS MedicineWise, State and Territory health departments, consumers and health professionals.

At its first meeting today, the working group noted developments in the practice and regulation of prescribing in Australia, including:

- the development of models of care involving prescribing within health services,
- the endorsement in relation to scheduled medicines provided by the National Law,
- the completion of a nationally recognised prescribing competency framework for health professionals, and
- the development of the Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway by Health Workforce Australia.

The PWG considered it was important that the National Scheme have a consistent, transparent and rigorous approach to regulatory policy for prescribing, in order to ensure the objectives of the National Scheme are met.

The group also discussed the development of a framework to guide regulatory policy for prescribing, including the purpose, the principles and scope for such a framework. The enabling of improved access to health services by consumers and the safe and quality use of medicines were considered to be the primary considerations in the development of regulatory policy.

The group agreed to further consider the development of a framework at its next meeting in February 2015.

Background

Health practitioners regulated under the National Scheme and who prescribe medicines are medical practitioners, dentists, nurses and nurse practitioners, midwives, optometrists, podiatrists and pharmacists.

Authorisation for these health professionals to prescribe medicines depends on the medicines legislation in each state and territory and this can differ across the professions and where they are based. The legal authority to prescribe medicines is the responsibility of state and territory governments.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- Visit the individual Boards' websites for specific registration information and FAQ, accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200