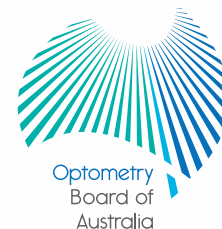


**Optometry Board of Australia**

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: RECENCY OF PRACTICE

1 December 2015

# REGISTRATION STANDARD: REGENCY OF PRACTICE



## Summary

This registration standard sets out the Optometry Board of Australia's minimum requirements for recency of practice for optometrists.

## Does this standard apply to me?

This registration standard applies to all registered optometrists except those with student or non-practising registration.

What does this mean for me?

You must meet this registration standard when:

- you apply for registration as an optometrist for the first time
- you renew your registration
- you change your scope of practice, for example if you change your registration from non-practising to general registration.

## What must I do?

To meet this registration standard you must:

- a. complete a minimum of 450 hours of practice within your regular scope of practice over the preceding 36 months  
or
- b. have successfully completed, within the previous 24 months, a competency assessment or examination approved by the Board  
or
- c. have graduated from an approved program of study within the previous 24 months and be applying for registration for the first time.

### Changing scope of practice

If your proposed scope of practice differs from your scope of practice in the preceding three years, you are considered to have met the recency of practice standard if you:

- a. move to a scope of practice that is regarded as a subset of your current scope of practice  
or
- b. change from a clinical practice to non-clinical practice.

If you intend to change to a new scope of practice (such as changing from a non-clinical to clinical role) and you do not meet the criteria above, before you commence practising in the new scope you must consult with the Board to formulate a professional development plan/ return to practice plan.<sup>1</sup>

## What if I do not meet the standard?

If you don't meet this standard, you will need to provide information to help the Board decide if you are able to continue or return to practice.

If you do not meet the standard the Board may allow you to return to practice following successful completion of one or a combination of the following:

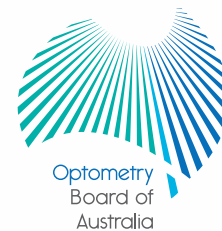
- a. a competency assessment approved by the Board
- b. a period of supervised practice approved by the Board, or
- c. a program of study approved by the Board.

The Board may also place conditions on your registration. In determining the nature of any condition to be placed on your registration, the Board may consider but is not limited to:

- a. your history of registration and practice
- b. the duration of your absence(s) from practice
- c. the length of time since you gained your primary qualification
- d. activities related to the practice of optometry you undertook in the previous three years
- e. your history of participation in continuing

<sup>1</sup> Refer to [www.optometryboard.gov.au](http://www.optometryboard.gov.au)

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professional development activities, and

- f. additional qualifications you obtained during any period when you did not meet this standard.

## You may be audited

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the National Board receives a complaint or notification about you.

You should retain evidence of having met the requirements of the standard for the immediately preceding four years in case you are audited.

## Other possible consequences

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet the recency of practice requirements in this standard. In addition to the Board being able to impose conditions on registration:

- the Board can refuse your application for registration or renewal of registration (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for optometrists (section 41 of the National Law).

## Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

## Definitions

**Approved program of study** for a health profession or for endorsement of registration in a health profession, means an accredited program of study — (a) approved under section 49(1) by the National Board established for the health profession; and (b) included in the list published by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency under section 49(5).

**Clinical practice** is when the practitioner is directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of an optometrist whether remunerated or not.

**National Law** means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

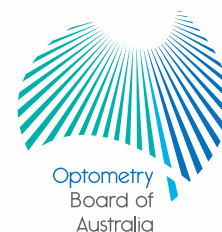
**Non-clinical practice** is when a practitioner is not directly involved in providing direct clinical care to or oversight of the direct clinical care of patients using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of an optometrist whether remunerated or not.

**Practice** means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

**Recency of practice** means that a health practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

**Scope of practice** means the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is educated and competent to perform.

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## Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.

**Last reviewed:** 1 December 2015

This standard replaces the previous registration standard dated 1 July 2010.