



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

Practitioner audit brief for ANMF

November 2013

Practitioner audit brief for the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation

Background

The Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) in conjunction with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), agreed to undertake an audit (pilot) of the nursing and midwifery professions. The then ANF provided feedback on the audit checklists and frequently asked questions (FAQ) specific to the profession.

The pilot is now in its final stages. A report on the pilot will be published in early 2014.

Pilot audits were undertaken across several professions. This pilot together with the two previous pilots has informed AHPRA and the 14 National Boards developing a nationally-consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards.

The outcomes from these pilots are available at: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Audit.aspx>

What is happening? Why are we doing it?

From July of this year, all professions will be audited against the respective mandatory registration standards for their profession. These being:

- criminal history
- continuing professional development
- recency of practice, and
- professional indemnity insurance arrangements.

Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that National Boards and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations for a random sample of practitioners. They help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the standards they are required to meet and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

AHPRA will conduct the audits on behalf of the NMBA.

Who is affected?

Audits of random samples of practitioners from all professions will occur periodically throughout the year. The audit schedule is not available publically.

The selection for audit is a random process, with sample sizes determined for statistical significance according to the profession size and the registration types of that profession. The details of these are not made public.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration, they make a declaration that they have (or have not) met some or all of the registration standards for their profession. The audit requires that practitioners provide further information to support their declarations and explanations to support why some requirements have not been met.

The audit notice sent to the registrant identifies which standard/standards are being audited. One or more of the following four mandatory registration standards may be audited:

What is being audited	What it means for a practitioner
Criminal history registration standard	AHPRA uses an independent service provider to check your criminal history, which will happen automatically at no cost to you. You do not have to do anything further unless you are asked to provide more information.
Continuing professional development registration standard	Practitioners must provide evidence of the CPD activities you have undertaken to meet the requirements of the Board's standard.
Recency of practice registration standard	Practitioners must provide evidence of recency of practice activities you have undertaken which meet the requirements of the Board's standard.
Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard	Practitioners must provide evidence of PII arrangements which meet the requirements of the Board's PII registration standard.

What is the process?

- Registrants selected for audit receive an audit notice in the mail.
- Registrants have four weeks to provide the requested documentation to AHPRA. Along with the notice, participants will receive a checklist to assist in preparing the required documentation as evidence of the activities which meet the requirements of the standard.
- Once AHPRA has received the completed checklist and supporting documentation, the submission will be compared against the declarations the registrant made in their last renewal application.
- AHPRA may request further documentation be provided and / or refer cases to the National Board or delegated committee for further investigation.
- Registrants will be advised via a letter of the outcome of the audit.

Where do I get more information?

Further information in relation to the standards relevant to the profession and practitioner obligations, can be accessed from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia website:

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards