

National Registration FAQ

The National Registration Scheme has commenced with many of problems predicted by the AMA in previous submissions and advocacy however, we are now focused on keeping members informed about the new Scheme with a large number of enquiries relating to the new system. Below are some of our most frequently asked questions with answers.

When I do a search on myself on the AHPRA website my information is not coming up. What am I doing wrong or am I no longer registered?

Generally the reason why people have been unable to locate their details is because they have entered too much information. The first step is to ensure the registration number field is left blank. DO NOT enter your former NSW registration number as it will prevent your details from being found. Simply enter your surname, first name and medical practitioner as "health profession". At this stage every member we have assisted with this question has been able to locate themselves on the register. Visit <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx>.

I thought all registration in NSW was due on 30 September 2010. Has this changed?

Yes. Despite previous advice from AHPRA, NSW registrants now have staggered renewal dates. The first renewal date is 30 September 2010. We suggest you check the register for your renewal date and diarise it.

What happens if I renew past my renewal date?

There is a "grace period" of one month from your renewal date when you may renew but will have to pay a \$310 late fee. The AMA is writing to AHPRA to protest this additional fee burden particularly given the problems involved in the

implementation of the Scheme. After a month you need to make an application for registration (rather than renewal), costing \$650.

I had a complaint against me some time ago that I declared to the NSW Medical Board and they considered. Do I need to re-declare this at question 14?

AHPRA has confirmed practitioners should report any complaint lodged during the preceding registration period and any complaint lodged earlier that remains open at the time of application for renewal.

My renewal is not due until later in the year but I want to login and change my details. How do I get my login to change details online?

Members who have received renewal notices will have the login information for the website allowing them to use features such as changing contact information online. For those not due to renew until after 1 October 2010 a mailout is commencing soon which will include login details.

I am in the limited registration category (retired doctors who prescribe and refer). Do I need indemnity insurance? I didn't need it previously.

Yes. Contact the MDO you previously held a policy with or have a relationship with and they should offer cover. For more on the ongoing battle with limited prescribing see page four.

Stop Press: AMA win on national registration

On 23 September 2010 the Medical Board of Australia waived the \$325.00 late fee imposed by AHPRA on doctors that fail to renew their registration by the due date after AMA Federal President, Dr Andrew Pesce wrote to the Board to strongly object to the fee given the many implementation problems.

I have retired but remain fully registered. Can I get into the retired category (prescriptions and referrals)?

No. The category is only open to registrants registered in the category in NSW previously. You can remain fully registered or register under the non-practising category. If you register as non-practising you can't write scripts or referrals or conduct any other type of medical practice.

What if not all of my qualifications appear on the register? What if they have not recognised my specialist registration (e.g. vocationally registered GPs)?

You will need to liaise with AHPRA to have your qualifications and specialty added. We understand not all qualifications previously listed with the NSW Medical Board have been transported across to the new Register. We have received feedback that adding qualifications or specialist registration has not been easy and we are raising this issue with AHPRA.

AMA (NSW) is here to help you. We have direct access to AHPRA, the Medical Board of Australia and State Medical Council and are working with them to address concerns.

Should you have any issues regarding registration please contact the Medico-Legal and Employment Relations Division on 02 9439 8822, or email industrial@amansw.com.au.