

REGENCY OF PRACTICE

The Board has adopted a Recency of Practice policy to be used in relation to Section 41 of the Act. This section states that any physiotherapist who has not practised physiotherapy in the preceding five (5) years and is unable to demonstrate sufficient current knowledge and skills to practise competently must be removed from the register. There is a clear obligation on registered practitioners to notify the Board if they do not meet the foregoing tests.

While the purpose of the Act is to protect the public and in this instance, by ensuring that only practitioners with current skills and knowledge are permitted to practise, the Board is concerned to ensure there are adequate pathways for these practitioners to re-commence practice. A copy of the Board's policy has been enclosed with the renewal notification, and the Board strongly encourages members of the profession to read the policy and to contact the Registrar if there are any queries.

Recency of Practice Research

The following study is being conducted from Queensland. You are invited by the researchers to participate:

Dear Physiotherapist

Re: Models for re-education of physiotherapy to enable registration

My research team and I are currently conducting research for the Physiotherapists Board of Queensland to develop models for the re-education of practitioners who may have been absent from the workforce for extended periods of time.

As part of this research, understanding the experience of clinical supervisors of re-entry physios, re-entry physios themselves and those considering re-entry or not are vital. We would like to invite you to participate and provide your perspective.

Would you be willing to participate in this research or give us the contact details of another appropriate person? The interview would be conducted by telephone and take approximately 30 minutes with information sheets and consent forms provided to you prior to the interview.

Please call me on 0419 038 441 or email on lorraine.sheppard@jcu.edu.au if you are interested.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Lorraine Sheppard, Anne Jones and Robyn Adams

School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences

Kathy Grudzinskas

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CONCILIATION

Under the new Act, the Board now has the ability to settle a complaint by conciliation. A draft policy has been prepared and once approved by the Board, copies will be mailed to all registered physiotherapists.

CRIMINAL RECORD SCREENING

Under the new Act, the Board will continue to require evidence of a clear Criminal Record Screening. The Board will continue to require this information from all physiotherapists every four years.

PRACTICE NAMES

Practice names must be registered with the Board, but there are no longer any restrictions on wording of the practice name.

REGISTRATION AS A SPECIALIST

The Board has investigated the issues surrounding the registration of practitioners as specialists and has for the time being, decided not to recognise any areas of specialty.

The Act allows the Board to prescribe areas of specialty where it would be appropriate for the Board to protect the public, by limiting certain practices only to practitioners who could establish they were appropriately skilled in that area. Such areas are more likely to relate to specialised, high risk areas of practice, rather than the broader areas such as Sports Physiotherapy, etc.

One of the difficulties associated with recognising an area of specialty is that only the persons registered as specialists in that field would be entitled to practise that specialty. This means that no one else may practise in that field.

The Board did not believe it appropriate to recognise fields of practice such as Sports Physiotherapy as a specialty, as this would mean general practitioners would be prevented from practising in this area. Notwithstanding this, the restriction on the use of titles still remains current.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has decided to establish a national registration authority for nine health professions, including physiotherapy, which will replace each of the State/Territory Registration Boards. The proposed commencement date for this new authority was 1 July 2008.

All State and Territory Governments were to sign an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) this year that would effectively enable each jurisdiction to adopt the same piece of legislation. The Commonwealth Government has recently referred the draft IGA back to the States and Territories for further discussion with stakeholders. As a result, it is likely the proposed commencement date will not be 1 July 2008. However, there has been no news as to what date, if any, the national registration scheme might become operative.

It is important to recognise that the Board has no influence on the nature and timing of this process. There has been little information received directly from COAG or the local jurisdiction regarding progress, and therefore the Board does not know whether the proposed commencement date can be met. However, the Board will keep you informed as further information becomes available.



NEWSLETTER

Issue 13

Produced by the Physiotherapists' Registration Board of Western Australia • PO Box 959 South Perth WA 6951 • Phone (08) 9368 2644 • Fax (08) 9368 2677

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The Members of the Board hold office for a period up to three (3) years and have been appointed pursuant to Section 6(1) of the Act.

Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Gibson (Presiding Member)

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

Professor Tony Wright (Deputy Presiding Member)

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

Ms Anna Ciffolilli

A legal practitioner appointed by the Minister for Health.

Ms Gwen Parry

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

Dr Shane Patman

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

Dr Margaret Potter

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

Mr Glenn Ruscoe

Physiotherapist appointed by the Minister for Health.

ADMINISTRATION/CONTACTING THE BOARD

Registrar	Kim Bradbury
Assistant Registrar	Julia Fenton
Phone:	9368 2644
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Website:	www.prbwa.com.au
Postal Address:	PO Box 959 SOUTH PERTH WA 6951
Street Address:	Suite 7, Level 2 23 Richardson Street SOUTH PERTH WA 6151
Office hours:	Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

In November 2007 there were **2324** registered physiotherapists in Western Australia of these, **26.76 per cent** were males.

FEE SCHEDULE

The following fees are stipulated in the Regulations:

Registration Fees (GST Exempt)		Administrative Fees (GST Exempt)	
Application Fee	\$50.00	Change of Particulars	\$15
Registration Fee – Full Year	\$75.00	Certificate of Good Standing	\$15
Registration Fee - Jan-June	\$37.50	Additional Qualifications	\$15
Restoration Fee following removal		Extract of entry in the Register	\$15
From the Register for non-payment	\$80.00	Duplicate Receipt	\$15

RENEWAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

The Board will continue to accept renewal payments by Bpay this year. If you choose this option you can either fax in your completed application for renewal form or mail it to the Board. Forms must be received by 1 February 2008.

If you are making payment by cheque or money order, your completed form must be mailed together with your fee payment. You may also make payments in person at the Board's office.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON REGISTER

The Register is a public document and as such is accessible to any person or entity. Information available to the public consists of the physiotherapist's name, address, registration number, registration date, qualifications and details of any conditions placed on the physiotherapist's registration. Phone numbers and email addresses are not made available to the public.

Physiotherapists are required to have an address on the Register however, it is the physiotherapist's choice as to which address they use. If any physiotherapist is uncomfortable with the address on the Register, they can request to change it by emailing, faxing or writing to the office of the Board.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Physiotherapists need to be reminded they should register postgraduate qualifications with the Board to entitle them to display the qualifications in advertisements, on stationery and signs.

Postgraduate qualifications that pertain to physiotherapy, such as a Graduate Diploma or Masters degree, should be entered on the Register.

Qualifications should be specific to physiotherapy and from a tertiary institution approved by the Board. A certified copy of the degree or academic transcript is required, with a fee of \$15.

A physiotherapist, who has postgraduate qualifications in physiotherapy registered with the Board, is entitled to use one of the undermentioned titles that relate to that postgraduate qualification:

1. Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapist or Cardio-respiratory Physiotherapist
2. Electrotherapist
3. Hydrotherapist
4. Manipulative Therapist or Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist
5. Neurological Physiotherapist
6. Orthopaedic Physiotherapist
7. Paediatric Physiotherapist
8. Sports Physiotherapist
9. Women's Health Physiotherapist
10. Gerontology Physiotherapist

Whilst a physiotherapist would be entitled to use the title, for example, "Manipulative Therapist", this does not extend to saying that they specialise in manipulative therapy. Therefore it would be contrary to the Regulations, Rules or Policies to use terms such as "specialist" or "specialising in".

WEBSITE

The Board website is being updated to ensure documentation and other information provided is current. Information that can be found on the site includes policy details, application forms, complaint procedures and newsletters. The site also has links to the Act, Australian Physiotherapy Council and other State Registration Boards.

As the changes to the details are in progress, the Board recommends you check with the Registrar before relying on the information at this time.

ACUPUNCTURE

Under the previous legislation, the definition of physiotherapy referred to the external application of treatment and as such, this meant that acupuncture, as a physiotherapy modality or service, was specifically not permitted.

In the new Act, "physiotherapy" is defined as "a method of treatment prescribed by the Regulations". This change has effectively removed the restriction on the provision of acupuncture as a physiotherapy treatment. This means that registered physiotherapists may now provide acupuncture as a treatment option and for that service to be billed as a physiotherapy service.

PHYSIOTHERAPY METHODS OF TREATMENT

For the purpose of the definition of "physiotherapy" in the Act section 3, the following methods of treatment are prescribed:

- (a) use of a short wave diathermy machine;
- (b) use of an ultra violet light machine;
- (c) use of an infrared ray lamp;
- (d) use of an ultra sonic machine;
- (e) use of electrical stimulation by means of an interferential, faradic or galvanic machine;
- (f) spinal manipulation involving the rapid application of a force (whether by manual or mechanical means) to any part of a person's body that affects a joint or segment of the vertebral column.

This means that the methods of treatment prescribed should only be practised by registered physiotherapists or other practitioners exempted within the Act e.g. medical practitioners.

RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

As advised in the Board's August 2007 Information Sheet, the current renewal is only for the period 1 January to 30 June 2008. As this is a six-month period, only half of the annual renewal fee is payable.

You will receive another renewal notice in mid-May 2008 for the 2008/9 financial year. This fee will be \$75.00, unless increased in the intervening period. Renewals will then commence an annual mid-year cycle.

RENEWAL GRACE PERIOD

Under the previous legislation, a grace period existed whereby renewals were deemed to have been paid as at 1 January, even where the actual payment was not made until early February. The Board will allow this grace period on this renewal cycle.

FOR THE 2008/09 RENEWAL PERIOD, THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO EXTEND THE PAYMENT PERIOD. YOUR NAME WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER AS AT 1 JULY 2008 IF THE 2008/09 RENEWAL FEE IS NOT PAID BY 30 JUNE 2008.

RESTORATION TO THE REGISTER

If your name has been removed from the register under the old Act and Regulations due to non-payment of the renewal fee, you must submit a new application for registration to the Board if you wish to be registered as a physiotherapist. This means that you would be required to produce all documents such as degrees, complete an application form, produce photographic identification, evidence of current criminal screening, a certificate of good standing (if applicable) and pay the application fee of \$50.00 and the registration fee of \$75.00 (for a full year).

If your name is removed under Section 35(1) of the Physiotherapists Act 2005 for non-payment of fees (which cannot occur until after 1 January 2008) you may apply to have your name restored to the Register at any time. You will be required to complete the application form, produce evidence of current criminal screening, photographic identification, produce a certificate of good standing (if applicable) and pay the restoration fee (\$80.00), current registration fee (\$75.00 for a full year) and **all fees that would have been paid if the you had continued to be registered**. The fees can very quickly accumulate to become a substantial amount, so the Board urges you to either pay the renewal fee each year, or to remove your name voluntarily (in writing) from the Register if you know you will not be practicing in Western Australia.

If your name is removed from the Register due to the non-payment of the annual renewal fee, it is very important you do not recommence practice until you have received confirmation from the Board that your application to restore your name to the Register has been approved. You should be aware that your restoration is not complete simply by submitting the application form and paying the prescribed fees.

Please be aware that if your name has been removed from the Register due to non-payment of the renewal fee and you continue to practise physiotherapy whilst being unregistered, you will be in breach of the Act and may be prosecuted by the Board. In addition, you would not be entitled to charge or recover fees for physiotherapy services provided while unregistered.

The most common reason physiotherapists' names are removed from the Register is due to non-payment of the annual registration fee. Most of these physiotherapists have moved address without notifying the Board and consequently they do not receive the renewal notification. It is strongly recommended you check your address on the Register to ensure it is current. If it is out of date, then simply send an email, fax or write to the Board and provide details of your new address.

NOTIFICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Sections 43 to 46 of the Act require registered physiotherapists to notify the Board when a number of events occur. They are:

- Change of Address within thirty (30) days of the change (Penalty \$1,000);
- Loss of Qualification within ninety (90) days of the withdrawal or cancellation of a qualification (Penalty \$1,000);
- Insolvency within seven (7) days of becoming insolvent (Penalty \$5,000), and
- Civil or Criminal Proceedings within fourteen (14) days (Penalty \$5,000).

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The Board has drafted a Professional Indemnity Insurance Policy and has received feedback from the APA WA Branch, Guild Insurance and Risk Cover on that draft. The policy is currently being modified to take into account a number of constructive suggestions, and we will be mailing the final document to all registered physiotherapists in 2008.

The Board intends to introduce the professional indemnity policy with effect from 1 July 2008.