

Communiqué

20 September 2018

September 2018 meeting of the Paramedicine Board of Australia

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders about the work of the Board. Please forward it on to colleagues or employees who may be interested.

Registration will become mandatory for paramedics from 1 December 2018 when paramedicine becomes regulated under the National Law.

The Board held its 12th meeting at the AHPRA offices in Brisbane and took the opportunity to meet with the Health Ombudsman for Queensland who receives and assesses notifications about registered health practitioners in Queensland in a co-regulatory arrangement set out in the National Law. The Board hosted a forum for practitioners and the chair of the Board also presented at the Paramedics Australasia international conference on the Gold Coast, the day following the Board meeting.

Informed financial consent

The Board has received some correspondence seeking clarification on the ethical and professional expectations outlined in the interim code of conduct that relate to seeking informed financial consent before providing care. This is an ethical and professional expectation across almost all professions in the National Scheme. The Board supports the general position that patients should be informed about the costs of their health care where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. The unique nature of paramedic practice in an emergency service context is such that in many cases it may be unnecessary or inappropriate for paramedics to seek informed financial consent due to circumstances where:

- a patient does not have the capacity to provide consent
- the complexity of patient-billing classifications for emergency services makes the provision of accurate information onerously difficult
- the information is already published or made available by an employer, or
- the clinical needs of the patient and urgency and context of the clinical situation make patient care a priority.

The Board expects registered paramedics to always practice with a patient's best interest in mind and make their own judgement as to whether it is necessary or appropriate to seek informed financial consent in each case.

Paramedic and nurse – dual registration fact sheet

The Board and the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) have established a joint working group to work through shared regulatory issues and develop support materials for practitioners registered in both professions.

The Board approved the publication of a joint fact sheet that outlines how a person registered as both a paramedic and a nurse can draw upon common capabilities across both professions to demonstrate recency of practice and CPD.

The Board and the NMBA are continuing to work on a number of shared issues with similar guidance for midwife/paramedics to be released in the coming months.

Engagement with the profession and key stakeholders

The Board is continuing its stakeholder engagement activities after forums in successful Brisbane and Perth.

The next forum is in Adelaide on Monday 22 October 2018. While attendance at the forum is free, you will need to register to attend. [Register to attend](#) the forum on the Board's website.

If you can't attend, [recordings of the Melbourne live streams are](#) available on the Board's website.

Sign up for updates and keep informed

Sign up for [e-News updates](#) from the Board and AHPRA to be advised about upcoming events and updates during the implementation period for national regulation of paramedics.

The latest e-News update can also be found on the [Board's website](#).

Follow AHPRA on social media

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Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia