



## Frequently Asked Questions

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April 2011

### Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines (ESM)

#### Introduction

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each State and Territory, the Podiatry Board of Australia may endorse a podiatrist's registration for scheduled medicines.

The following Board documents provide detailed information about the requirements for applying for an endorsement for scheduled medicines:

- *Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines Registration Standard*
- *Guidelines for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* which include:
  - *Clinical Practice Guidelines* and
  - *The National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List*
- *Information Package for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines*

These documents are published on the Board's website at [www.podiatryboard.gov.au](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au) and the Board recommends that you familiarise yourself with the contents of these documents.

**The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide information to help podiatrists to understand the Board's requirements for applying for an endorsement for scheduled medicines.**

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#### Q1. How do I apply for an endorsement for scheduled medicines?

An applicant for a scheduled medicine endorsement must follow one of two pathways.

All applicants **must have successfully completed an approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics** and provide evidence of either:

- *Pathway 1*

A period of post-qualification experience (equivalent to working seven years full time i.e. working 38 hours/week, 48 weeks/year, for seven years a clinical setting where the podiatrist is being involved in clinical decision making and participating in determining pharmacological management of patients with podiatric conditions) and two confirmatory references of applicant exposure to patient care involving restricted drugs); or

- *Pathway 2*

Successful completion of 15 web-based case studies approved by the Board and clinical experience supervised by an endorsed prescriber approved by the Board in an appropriate setting

in which active prescribing is occurring in a 12 month period. The evidence to demonstrate the supervised practice will include:

- A Supervisor Agreement and
- 40 Log Sheets written by the applicant and
- Certificate(s) of Completion of Supervised Practice.

See the Board's *Guideline for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines and Information Pack* for more detailed information on the requirements.

## **Q2. Who can apply for endorsement?**

1. Podiatrists with general registration who have successfully met the requirements of either Pathway 1 or Pathway 2
2. Podiatric surgeons who have successfully met the requirements of either Pathway 1 or Pathway 2

Overseas-qualified podiatrists who can demonstrate equivalency of standards in education and/or training or have completed a course of study approved by the Board. These podiatrists will be expected to have completed education and training procedures equivalent to current Australian standards.

## **Q3. What is an approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics?**

The Board will accept the following as an approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics:

- A program of study in podiatric therapeutics that has been accredited for this purpose by the Australia and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council [ANZPAC] and approved by the Board or
- A program of study that transitioned on the commencement of the National Law as an 'approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics' or
- A program of study in podiatric therapeutics that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved program of study.

A list of the approved programs of study is located on the Board's website and in the Information Package.

## **Q4. How are additional programs of study in podiatric therapeutics able to be added to the list of approved programs of study?**

ANZPAC is currently undertaking a project to develop an accreditation standard for the training of podiatrists seeking endorsement for scheduled medicines. ANZPAC is expected to submit the accreditation standard to the Board for approval by the end of June 2011.

Education providers across Australia will then be able to have their podiatric therapeutics programs assessed by ANZPAC to ensure the competencies for the academic component of prescribing is consistent.

## **Q5. I am a recent graduate with general registration. What is the recommended pathway to apply for an endorsement for scheduled medicines?**

Pathway 2 is the recommended pathway for a registrant who has recently graduated. You must provide evidence of successful completion of:

- An approved program of study in podiatric therapeutics and

- 15 Board approved web-based case studies and
- Supervised practice. The evidence to demonstrate this includes:
  - A Supervisor Agreement as detailed in the Board's Information Package and
  - 40 Log Sheets written by the applicant as detailed in the Board's Information Package and
  - Certificate(s) of Completion of Supervised Practice as detailed in the Board's Information Package.

An endorsed prescriber approved by the Board to supervise the applicant's clinical experience will be a registered medical practitioner or a podiatrist endorsed for scheduled medicines.

#### **Q6. What are the Board approved web-based case studies?**

Currently, La Trobe University in Victoria is the only approved course provider. The details of the course are:

*Web-based case studies and Therapeutics Update Course for Podiatrists  
The Institute of Advanced Study, La Trobe University (or alternate location)*

See the Board's Information Package for further details.

#### **Q7. I have been a registered podiatrist for many years. How do I apply for an endorsement for scheduled medicines?**

You can apply through either Pathway 1 or Pathway 2.

##### **Pathway 1**

An applicant must have:

- Successfully completed an **approved program of study** in podiatric therapeutics
- A period of post-qualification experience (equivalent to working seven years full time i.e. working 38 hours/week, 48 weeks/year, for seven years a clinical setting in which the podiatrist is being involved in clinical decision making and participating in determining pharmacological management of patients with podiatric conditions) and
- two confirmatory references of applicant exposure to patient care involving restricted drugs.

##### **Pathway 2**

An applicant must have:

- Successfully completed an **approved program of study** in podiatric therapeutics
- Completed 15 web-based case studies approved by the Board and clinical experience supervised by an endorsed prescriber approved by the Board in an appropriate setting in which active prescribing is occurring in a 12 month period. The evidence to demonstrate the supervised practice will include:
  - A Supervisor Agreement and
  - 40 Log Sheets written by the applicant and
  - Certificate(s) of Completion of Supervised Practice.

See the Board's *Guideline for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines* and *Information Pack* for more detailed information on the requirements.

**Q8. Who can provide a confirmatory reference?**

The two clinicians providing confirmatory references must be medical practitioners or podiatrists with endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Details of information required in the references are provided in the Information Package.

**Q9. Do the log sheet and other documents such as the supervisor agreement have to be in a particular form?**

Yes. The Board's Information Pack has templates (and instructions) for a number of documents, including the Log Sheet; Supervisor Agreement; and Certificate of Completion of Supervised Practice.

**Q10. I want to apply for an endorsement under *Pathway 1* but there are some medicines on the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List that I have never prescribed and some I haven't prescribed for a number of years. What should I do to update my knowledge in relation to the medications on the National List?**

You should complete a Therapeutics Update Course, which aims to provide practising podiatrists with enough information to be able to effectively prescribe designated medicines with knowledge, confidence, efficacy and safety.

Currently, La Trobe University is the only course provider for a Therapeutic Update Course. The details of the course are:

*Therapeutics Update Course for Podiatrists, The Institute of Advanced Study, La Trobe University (or alternate location)  
15-hour course (2.5 days) and includes: course notes, catering and the instruction (update course and web-based case studies).*

See the Board's Information Package for further details.

**Q11. What scheduled medicines can I prescribe if I have an endorsement?**

Under the National Law, the Board may endorse the registration of a registered podiatrist as being qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use the scheduled medicines as listed in the *List of Scheduled Medicines Approved by the Podiatry Board of Australia* (the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List).

Although the endorsement for scheduled medicines indicates a podiatrist is **qualified** to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply or use the scheduled medicines listed in the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List, it does not **authorise** the podiatrist to do so. Authorisation to use scheduled medicines is provided for under the relevant drugs and poisons legislation in each State and Territory and podiatrists **must be aware of and adhere to** the requirements of that legislation.

In each State and Territory, the scheduled medicines that can be prescribed, supplied or used by a podiatrist are clearly listed in the relevant drugs and poisons legislation and the list of scheduled medicines may vary from one jurisdiction to the next.

For example, if you were to practise in Victoria, an endorsed podiatrist is authorised to obtain and have in their possession and to use, sell or supply specified Schedule 2, 3 or 4 poisons as detailed in a list in the Victorian drugs and poisons legislation.

In New South Wales, an endorsed podiatrist is authorised to possess, use, supply or prescribe all of the scheduled medicines listed in the National Podiatry Scheduled Medicines List.

In the ACT, there is no approved list of scheduled medicines for podiatrists with an endorsement and an endorsed podiatrist cannot use scheduled medicines beyond adrenaline and local anaesthetics currently included in the ACT drugs and poisons legislation for podiatrists with general registration.

A podiatrist must be familiar with and comply with the requirements of the legislation relating to scheduled medicines in each jurisdiction in which they practise podiatry. Health departments in each State and Territory have information about the drugs and poisons legislation. The *Overview of Scheduled Medicines* document on the Board's website provides additional information.