

10 December 2020

Dr Michael Dray
President
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

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Dear Dr Dray

Continuing professional development requirements for 2021

In March 2020 the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) agreed to temporarily vary several registration requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical practitioners had provided feedback that they may have difficulty fulfilling CPD requirements in 2020 as a result of withdrawn/denied leave requests, conference cancellations and meeting workforce needs.

The Board agreed it would not take action if doctors could not meet the CPD registration standard in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board's information to practitioners encouraged doctors to, wherever possible, continue to do CPD that was relevant to their scope of practice.

The Board recently considered whether the varied CPD arrangements would be continued in 2021. It noted the ongoing importance of CPD and that many CPD activities postponed from earlier in 2020 have resumed, although the format of some CPD activities may have changed with the inclusion of more virtual opportunities. The Board expects that CPD activities will continue to be adapted to enable practitioners to undertake CPD, taking into consideration the changed environment.

Given the new approaches to CPD, and the fact that COVID-19 restrictions are likely to be with us for some time to come, the Board has decided that medical practitioners will be required to meet the CPD registration standard in 2021. We encourage you to continue to adapt your college CPD program requirements to be practical and achievable in the current context.

I would like to recognise the work done by colleges to provide alternative CPD opportunities during 2020 in response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anne Tonkin
Chair, Medical Board of Australia