

1 November 2012

URGENT Advisory notice:

Occupational therapists - Registration

It is a legal requirement under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) to be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (National Board) to use the title 'occupational therapist'.

This has been the case since 1 July 2012 when occupational therapy joined the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

You MUST therefore be registered to access Medicare benefits.

If you are lodging Medicare claims for occupational therapy services and are not registered with the National Board, you are in breach of the National Law and significant penalties apply.

If you are not registered with the National Board, you **must** submit a completed registration application to AHPRA by the deadline **Friday 9 November 2012**.

The key issues

- All occupational therapists in Australia need to be registered with the National Board to use the title 'occupational therapist', or imply that you are a registered practitioner
- In order to be registered under the National Scheme you must be eligible and suitable for registration, and meet the Board's registration standards
- If you wish to practice as an occupational therapist you must submit an application through AHPRA **immediately**
- Applications will be assessed as quickly as possible
- If your application is refused, you are not permitted to use the title 'occupational therapist' or imply that you are registered

Medicare arrangements

Occupational therapists must be registered under the National Scheme in order to provide services under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).

Medicare will not pay claims lodged while a practitioner does not hold registration with the National Board.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has recently been informed that some practitioners might have believed that being a member of their local or national OT Association entitled automatic transition into the national registration. This is incorrect.

Registration requires an application to AHPRA for approval by the National Board. Registration requires compliance with the National Board's registration standards, codes and guidelines – which are published on the website, www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au.

Registration requires annual renewal and the payment of the applicable fees. If you are successfully registered your name will appear on the public register published at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Membership to a professional association is **not** related to registration under the National Scheme.

For more information

- The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia: www.occupationaltherapyboard.com.au
- Go to the website for:
 - information about the National Board's requirements on applying for registration, including the [mandatory registration standards](#) that must be met
 - [applications forms](#)
- For registration enquiries, please call: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)