Factsheet 7

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The ATSIHPBA’s Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard requires that registrants undertake 60 hours of documented CPD every three years with a minimum of 10 hours in any one year, and that 45 hours of this are formal learning activities (ATSIHPBA, 2013a).


The National Board's CPD guideline identifies acceptable formal and non-formal CPD activities as follows:

**Formal learning activities**

- Tertiary courses
- Accredited courses
- Conferences, forums and seminars
- Undertaking research and presentation of work
- Courses leading to a certificate, diploma, degree or higher degree
- Online learning (interactive discussion and chat rooms)
- In-service education programs
- Making presentations

**Non-formal and incidental learning activities**

- Reflecting on experience in day-to-day activities
- Reading journals, books etc.
- Secondment and/or contact with other health professionals
- Quality assurance activities, such as accreditation
- Participation in committees
- Information sharing at meetings
- Discussion with colleagues
- Internet research
- Videoconferencing

It is recommended that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners complete annual CPD in the use of scheduled medicines if it is included in the individual scope of practice.

To support the use of scheduled medicines, broad clinical foundational knowledge is required. In addition to specific scheduled medicines CDP, the following is to be considered:

- understanding the person and their clinical needs
- understanding the treatment options and how they support the person’s clinical needs
- working in partnership with the person to develop and implement a treatment plan
- communicating the treatment plan clearly to other health professionals
- monitoring and reviewing the person’s response to treatment.
To assist with recording CPD activities, a Personal Portfolio of Training and Continuing Professional Development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners has been developed by James Cook University and the Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network, and is available at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association (NATSIHWA).


Further Resources:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia Continuing Professional Development Registration Standards
- Personal Portfolio of Training and Continuing Professional Development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners