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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REVISED COMPETENCY STANDARDS FRAMEWORK FOR PHARMACISTS**

The Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC), on behalf of its member organisations,\* is pleased to release the *National competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia 2016*.

The 2016 framework has been endorsed by all 11 member organisations of the PPDC. This update was conducted as part of a regular cycle of reviews to ensure the profession's competency standards framework is consistent with contemporary pharmacist practice and the interests of public safety, and reflects future needs of the Australian healthcare system.

The project conducted over two years involved a comprehensive review which was made possible by financial contributions of PPDC member organisations with the Pharmacy Board of Australia matching funds provided by other organisations. During the extensive consultation stages, PPDC appreciated all of the submissions received from pharmacy organisations, individual pharmacists, interns and students, and external stakeholders including consumer organisations, other health professions and government bodies.

The 2016 framework consists of five domains covering *Professionalism and ethics*, *Communication and collaboration*, *Medicines management and patient care*, *Leadership and management* and *Education and research*. The *Leadership and management* domain was significantly expanded and includes two standards which are universally applicable to all pharmacists regardless of their role or place of practice. The first two domains, *Professionalism and ethics* and *Communication and collaboration*, also apply across all areas of professional endeavour.

The comprehensive review of the 2010 framework was combined with the integration of standards in the 2012 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework to produce a single competency standards framework with emphasis on the importance of the continuum of professional practice.

The 2016 framework can be downloaded [here](#).

The PPDC is currently working on the development of practice support tools for the implementation of the new framework, some of which will be funded by the Pharmacy Board of Australia. The PPDC is also considering an appropriate transition timeframe, recognising that the current framework is well embedded across all facets of the profession, for example, pharmacists' continuing professional development plans. The Pharmacy Board of Australia and Australian Pharmacy Council will be determining the implementation date with respect to the assessment of interns (provisionally registered pharmacists). Further communication on these aspects will be issued by those mentioned and other PPDC member organisations to their respective organisational members in due course.

Shane Jackson  
Chair, Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee

\* Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee member organisations: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy; Australian College of Pharmacy; Australian Pharmacy Council; Council of Pharmacy Schools: Australia and New Zealand Inc.; National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association; Pharmaceutical Defence Limited; Pharmaceutical Society of Australia; Pharmacy Board of Australia; Professional Pharmacists Australia; Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia; The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.