



Frequently asked questions about accredited CPD for pharmacists

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the means by which pharmacists continue to maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

The PBA has made the overarching statement that CPD activities must:

- consist of education programs, seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, discussion groups, multimedia or website-based programs, or the research and preparation of articles published in pharmacy publications or such other publications relevant to their area of practice, or review of professional journals, or any combination of two or more of the above or self-directed learning consistent with maintenance of competence
- be of significant intellectual or practical content and deal primarily with matters directly related to the practice of pharmacy
- in other than self-directed learning, be conducted by persons who are qualified by practical or academic experience in the material covered
- be relevant to the **scope of the registered pharmacist's role as a provider of pharmacy services** and to the practice of pharmacy

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) requires registered pharmacists to comply with the Board's registration standard to complete 20 CPD credits for the 12 month period ending 30 September 2011. Requirements will increase to 30 CPD credits for the year ending 30 September 2012 and 40 CPD credits for the year ending 30 September 2013.

CPD activities can be either accredited or non-accredited.

FAQ 1

What is an accredited CPD activity?

An accredited CPD activity has undergone a quality assurance review for its educational quality and its relevance to pharmacists' practice.

FAQ 2

Do all CPD activities need to be accredited?

No. The PBA acknowledges that pharmacists may not have access to accredited CPD activities across the various activity groups or that cover the entire scope of practice of pharmacy. When non-accredited CPD activities are undertaken, it is the responsibility of the individual pharmacist to review the educational quality.

In addition, undertaking self-directed CPD as part of a structured learning plan is accepted by the PBA. The PBA advises pharmacists who undertake non-accredited activities as part of a learning plan to maintain records of CPD activities undertaken. It is the responsibility of each pharmacist to ensure that their CPD record is accurate and complete, regardless of whether accredited or non-accredited CPD activities are undertaken.

FAQ 3

How do I know if a CPD activity is accredited?

Promotional material and media for CPD events and training programs will be allowed to display the Australian Pharmacy Council CPD logo, associated with a unique prefix letter code and accreditation number. This will usually be displayed in a dedicated accreditation area of the promotional flyer or electronic media.



Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



Accreditation number: CXXXXX

*This activity has been accredited for X hours of
Group X CPD (or X CPD credits) suitable for
inclusion in an individual's pharmacist's CPD plan.*

When you see this logo and have undertaken the CPD activity, you can claim it as being accredited CPD.

FAQ 4

Who can accredit CPD activities?

Under the auspices of the Australian Pharmacy Council certain organisations may accredit CPD for pharmacists that meet the requirements for accredited CPD within the PBA's guidelines to the CPD Registration Standard.

As at June 2011, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, and the Australian College of Pharmacy are all authorised to accredit CPD activities for pharmacists.

FAQ 5

Does it matter which pharmacy organisation accredits the CPD activity?

No. All accredited CPD activities undergo a similar review process - it doesn't matter which accrediting organisation has accredited the activity.

FAQ 6

Do I need to be a member of the pharmacy organisation that provides an accredited CPD activity to claim the credits?

No. However, as a member you may be able to attend activities that are conducted for 'members-only' and you may also enjoy benefits such as reduced fees or automatic recording in a member benefit CPD record. Regardless of your membership status, you may claim CPD credits for any accredited CPD undertaken.

FAQ 7

Where can I go for more assistance?

Many pharmacy organisations are active in the CPD area and have many helpful materials to get you started. Have a look at the websites below.

Pharmacy Board of Australia

www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx

www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx

ACP www.acp.edu.au

PSA www.psa.org.au

PGA www.guild.org.au/guildpharmacyacademy



Pharmaceutical
Society of Australia

SHPA cpd.shpa.org.au