



Dear Registrant,

Re: Use of Local Anaesthesia by Podiatrists

The *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* ("Regulation") allows podiatrists in Queensland to access a broader range of local anaesthetics for use in podiatric care.

The Board has contacted the educational institutions in Australasia to determine the current and historical content of the podiatry courses regarding local anaesthetics. The institutions have advised the Board which courses/years received education consistent with the current Queensland requirements.

The Board's Drug Advisory Committee has provided recommendations of the educational content required for registrants to competently use the extended range of local anaesthetics listed in the Regulation. The Board has engaged the QUT Podiatry Department to develop the appropriate educational opportunity for registrants. The Board has made the following decisions.

1. Podiatrists using Local Anaesthesia must comply with the requirements of the Regulation. The Regulations may be found at www.legislation.qld.gov.au (click on "Acts, SL as in force", then "H", then "Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996.")
2. Podiatrists who have been using 1% lignocaine/xylocaine plain within the last five years can continue to do so without further education
3. All podiatrists using local anaesthetics must have a current Basic Life Support (CPR) certificate
4. All podiatrists using local anaesthetics must have a written protocol in place for the management of anaphylaxis
 - a. If a podiatrist wishes to use auto-injectable adrenalin (e.g. Epi-pen) as part of the protocol, multiple doses must be available, expiry dates of the devices must be observed and a protocol for the management of accidental self-injection must be in place
5. Podiatrists who have been using 1% lignocaine/xylocaine plain within the last five years can use the additional local anaesthetics in the regulation only if they have completed the appropriate education.

Appropriate education includes:

 - a. Graduation from a podiatry university course, from specific timeframes as notified by the Universities, when equivalent local anaesthetic education was provided.
 - b. The approved QUT local anaesthetics CPE up-grade course "New Local Anaesthetics, New Choices", as offered in November 2008. The course will be repeated in the future as required. Register your interest in attending this upgrade course by contacting the Board. Alternatively, check the website: <http://www.cpe.qut.edu.au/courses/event-search.jsp> and click the search button for notification of additional courses.
 - c. Another course with content equivalent to the QUT undergraduate podiatry degree (PU43) course provided by QUT as of 2007. Registrants would be required to provide the Board with relevant course outlines, list of lecture topics and details of the assessment items from the university that offered the course. If this information is not readily available, registrants should complete the QUT upgrade course.



6. In addition, podiatrists who have not used local anaesthetics within recent practice (the last five years) and wish to do so, are required to complete the QUT up-grade course and a Board-approved practical skills workshop.

All podiatrists who use local anaesthesia as part of their practice are encouraged to ensure their competency with the use of the local anaesthetics as listed in the Regulation by attending the approved QUT local anaesthetics CPE up-grade course “New Local Anaesthetics, New Choices”.

For further information regarding issues relating to the Board, please contact Pauline Portier on email: portierp@healthregboards.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Jason Warnock
Chairperson