

AUSTRALIAN ORTHOPTIC BOARD

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Re: Orthoptists and Private Health Insurances Accreditation Rules effective 1 July 2009

Recent changes in the Private Health Insurance Act 2007 require a practitioner to be recognized by an accredited body before a Private Health Fund can give a rebate to patients. Orthoptists are covered under a new rule to this Act - Rule 10 – which commenced 1st July 2009.

Medibank Private has approached the Australian Orthoptic Board as the suitable body to accredit Orthoptists. The Board is to supply a list of registrants who hold a CPE Certificate of Currency to Medibank Private which will be updated as necessary. No reimbursement will be paid by Medibank Private to patients of Orthoptists who are not on this list. All Private Health Insurers are bound by this legislation and are likely to follow Medibank Private's lead requesting verification of registration and a Certificate of Currency from the Board.

Registrants who require a provider number are urged to apply now for a Certificate of Currency where possible. Please refer to the list of activities accredited in 2007-2009 on the website "CPE Activities".

Some changes will be required in the operation of the CPE program to comply with the new legislation and enable the Board to submit the information necessary to verify the status of registrants. These issues are being addressed as part of the CPE program review which the Board conducts at the conclusion of each biennium.

Detailed information on the CPE program will be sent to all registrants by 30 September 2009. In the interim, any registrant who cannot apply for a Certificate of Currency but does require a service provider number should contact the AOB Office, preferably by email AOBoard@vicnet.net.au, or phone 03 9597 0979.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Fitzmaurice, PhD AOBR FOAA
AOB Chairman