

AHPRA and CPD: Confusion and double handling of CPD

1. Psychologists are required to lodge their Continuing Professional Development with the Psychology Board of Australia. Medicare psychologists are required to also submit the same CPD information to the Australian Psychological Society.
2. It is voluntary for psychologists to join the APS. Not all psychologists are members of the APS, including Medicare psychologists. Therefore there are many psychologists (i.e. non APS members) who could easily be unaware of the requirement to lodge their CPD with the APS. The repercussion if they do not submit CPD to APS is to lose Medicare provider status.
3. There are also different APS submission dates for the CPD depending on the category of Medicare psychologist.

AHPRA APS and Medicare:

1. The relationship between AHPRA and APS is not clear to psychologists. APS, a professional advocacy body, is carrying out a regulatory role, such as monitoring CPD requirements for the purposes of informing Medicare.
2. APS is also carrying out the regulation of psychologists for Medicare status –with status being tied to eligibility to join the APS Clinical College.