



Medical Board of Queensland

ABN: 95 789 357 327

## Request for Information from Treating Practitioners

Section 270 of the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999* (the Act) allows the Board to ask a treating practitioner for relevant information to assist the Board in assessing a registrant's health. However, the Board cannot compel the treating practitioner to provide this information.

Where possible, information from treating practitioners will only be obtained with the consent of the registrant.

The Board does not usually pay for the provision of this information and any payment is to be determined between the treating practitioner and the registrant.

The Board encourages discussion between the treating practitioner and the registrant in regard to information provided to the Board.

The Board may provide a copy of the information to the registrant upon request, unless the treating practitioner advises otherwise. Should the treating practitioner not wish the registrant to access the information he or she must expressly state so in writing and provide reasons. The treating practitioner will be advised of this when asked to provide the information.

The Board may use this information to facilitate any subsequent assessment. That is, the information may be provided to a Health Assessor under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act or to members of a Health Assessment Committee (Division 3), but it will not be used as the sole basis for determining fitness to practice. Both the registrant and the treating practitioner will be advised of this.

The information provided by a treating practitioner should be limited in scope. Information that is not relevant to the Board's deliberations need not be included, particularly personal or sensitive information. As a general guide the following information is of assistance to the Board:

- History of contact with patient-practitioner (Initial consultation and reason)
- Diagnosis
- Management plan, including medication and details of a proposed return to work if currently not working

It is not usually the Board's procedure to obtain information from treating practitioners other than on entry to the program, and occasionally when the treating practitioner is proposing that the registrant is now ready to return to work following a period of illness.

If the registrant wishes the Board to consider additional information from his or her treating practitioner at any stage, he or she must negotiate this directly with the treating practitioner.