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O-44 Skills Assessment Letter Validity Policy - COVID-19 variation

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
Validity period	Refers to the period that a Skills Assessment Letter is valid for after the issuing date. The duration of the validity period meets the requirements of the relevant authority (for example, DHA, PharmBA).

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
Ahpra	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
APC	Australian Pharmacy Council
CAOP	Competency Assessment for Overseas Pharmacists
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
KAPS	Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences
PharmBA	Pharmacy Board of Australia
SAL	Skills Assessment Letter

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1. Purpose

To describe the temporary change in validity period for APC-issued Skills Assessment Letters (SALs) used for registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA).

This policy is a temporary addendum to [O-42 Skills Assessment Letter Validity Policy – Knowledge and Competency Stream](#), and must be read in conjunction with this policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to SALs that have been issued to candidates who have been assessed by APC as being eligible for the Knowledge or Competency Stream between 2017 and 2021, that are being used to seek provisional registration with PharmBA.

This policy does not apply to the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) SAL validity period.

3. Overview

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with border closures, the ability for candidates to progress to provisional registration with PharmBA has been severely restricted. Restrictions on travel has resulted in candidates who have successfully passed the KAPS or CAOP exams being unable to travel to Australia and commence their internship period.

4. Policy Statement

In accordance with the [Skills Assessment Letter Validity Policy – Knowledge and Competency Stream](#), all SALs have a validity period of three years from the date of issue for both DHA and PharmBA (in accordance with the rules of the authority).

This policy describes a temporary change in the SAL validity period for candidates seeking registration with PharmBA.

4.1. Department of Home Affairs (DHA)

The validity period of SAL for submitting to DHA for visa/migration purposes remains **unchanged** at three years.

4.2. Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA)

This change only applies to the validity period of a SAL submitted to PharmBA.

For SALs issued on successful completion of the KAPS or CAOP exams, the validity period has been increased by an additional twelve months (to a total of four years) for SALs issued between 2017 and 2021.

PharmBA and Ahpra were informed about the changes in 2020.

The following table indicates the relevant expiry date:

Skills Assessment Letter dated	New expiry date
2017	2021
2018	2022
2019	2023
2020	2024
2021	2025

This interim arrangement will be reviewed once the pandemic has abated or closer to the extended expiry date.

5. Related documents/Links

[O-42 Skills Assessment Letter Validity Policy – Knowledge and Competency Stream](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Appeals Policy](#)

[Complaints Policy](#)



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