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# O-42 Skills Assessment Outcome Validity Policy - Knowledge and Competency Stream

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## Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
<p><b>Competency Stream (previously Stream B)</b></p>	<p>The pathway for applying for a Skills Assessment Outcome or registration as a pharmacist in Australia for an individual who has completed their pharmacy qualification, or been through an approved adjudication process, in a 'Competency Stream country'.</p> <p>The pathway has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Passing the initial eligibility check (meeting the eligibility criteria described in these standards)</li> <li>2. Passing the CAOP (Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists) exam</li> </ol> <p>Individuals who meet the two parts of this pathway can use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their SAO to support a visa application with the <a href="#">Department of Home Affairs</a></li> <li>• their results certificate showing they have passed the CAOP exam to apply for limited registration with the <a href="#">Pharmacy Board of Australia</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Competency Stream countries</b></p>	<p>The following are 'Competency Stream' countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canada</li> <li>2. Ireland</li> <li>3. United Kingdom</li> <li>4. United States of America</li> </ol>
<p><b>Knowledge Stream (previously Stream A)</b></p>	<p>The pathway for applying for a Skills Assessment Outcome or registration as a pharmacist in Australia for an individual who has completed their pharmacy qualification in any country <b>other than</b> Australia, New Zealand, or the Competency Stream countries (Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom, or the USA).</p> <p>The pathway has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Passing the initial eligibility check (meeting the eligibility criteria described in these standards)</li> <li>2. Passing the KAPS (Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences) exams</li> </ol> <p>Individuals who meet the two parts of this pathway can use:</p>

Term	Meaning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their SAO to support a visa application with the <a href="#">Department of Home Affairs</a></li> <li>• their results certificate showing they have passed the KAPS exam to apply for provisional registration with the <a href="#">Pharmacy Board of Australia</a></li> </ul>
<b>Validity period</b>	Refers to the period that a Skills Assessment Outcome 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
<b>APC</b>	Australian Pharmacy Council
<b>CAOP</b>	Competency Assessment for Overseas Pharmacists
<b>DHA</b>	Department of Home Affairs
<b>KAPS</b>	Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences
<b>PharmBA</b>	Pharmacy Board of Australia
<b>SAO</b>	Skills Assessment Outcome

# Skills Assessment Outcome Validity Policy – Knowledge and Competency Stream

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the validity period for Skills Assessment Outcomes (SAOs) issued to candidates who are assessed in either the Knowledge or Competency stream.

The policy aligns with the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) obligations to the Department of Home Affairs and the Pharmacy Board of Australia in relation to skills assessments.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to SAOs that are issued to candidates who have been assessed by APC as being eligible for either the Knowledge Stream or Competency Stream.

## 3. Overview

SAOs are issued by APC to candidates on their successful completion of the requirements of the applicable APC stream (either Knowledge or Competency). This is referred to as a 'successful outcome'.

All SAOs have an issue date that reflects the successful completion of the relevant exam (KAPS or CAOP). All SAOs are valid for three years (the 'validity period') from this date.

A successful outcome (SAO) may be used by an individual candidate for two purposes:

### 3.1. Department of Home Affairs (DHA)

A SAO may be used by a candidate as part of a visa application to the DHA.

The maximum validity period allowed by DHA is three years from the date of issue.

### 3.2. Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA)

A SAO may be used by a candidate as part of the evidence of their eligibility for provisional or limited registration with PharmBA.

The maximum validity period allowed by PharmBA is three years from the date of issue.

The three-year eligibility period aligns with the [PharmBA Recency of Practice registration standard](#).

### 3.3. Reissuing of a SAO

Once a SAO has expired, it cannot be used by a candidate to register with PharmBA or apply to DHA. A new or updated SAO can be issued in the following circumstances:

### 3.3.1. New SAO

A candidate who is not registered, or has limited/provisional registration, with PharmBA, is required to re-sit and pass the relevant exam(s) to be issued with a new SAO (fees apply).

### 3.3.2. Updated SAO

A candidate who has general pharmacist registration with PharmBA and is wishing to apply to DHA for visa/migration purposes after their SAO has expired is not required to re-sit and pass the relevant exam(s) to be issued with a new SAO. They are eligible to apply for an updated SAO (fees apply).

## 4. Policy Statement

APC is unable to modify or extend the validity period for SAOs as this is the responsibility of the DHA and/or PharmBA (as relevant).

If either DHA or PharmBA extends the maximum validity period for a SAO and notifies APC, APC will provide updated advice to candidates where possible. However, it is the responsibility of individual candidates to familiarise themselves with the documentary requirements of the authority they are applying to. One authority deciding to extend the validity period of a SAO is independent of any other authority. A SAO for an individual may, in some cases, have a different validity period with different authorities.

## 5. Related documents/Links

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Appeals Policy](#)

[Complaints Policy](#)

[PharmBA Recency of Practice registration standard](#)



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