



Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure health professionals are credentialed and have a defined scope of clinical practice to support safe and high-quality health care within the Western Australian public health system.

This policy is a mandatory requirement for Health Service Providers under the *Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework* pursuant to section 26(2)(a)(c)(d)(l) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to Health Service Providers employing or engaging staff who undertake clinical practice.

The requirements contained within this policy are applicable to the services purchased from contracted health entities where it is explicitly stated in the contract between the contracted health entity and the State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider. The State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider contract manager is responsible for ensuring that any obligation to comply with this policy by the contracted health entity is accurately reflected in the relevant contract and managed accordingly.

3. Policy Requirements

Health Service Providers must:

- ensure that all health professionals employed or engaged by a Health Service Provider are registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or meet the equivalent recognised standard for their profession
- ensure all health professionals employed or engaged by a Health Service Provider are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice
- have a process in place that affords health professionals the opportunity to appeal the decision regarding their credentialing and scope of clinical practice.

Specific mandatory professional stream requirements

3.1 Medical Practitioners

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- medical practitioners are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice

- appropriate policy and processes are in place to comply with the Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Medical Practitioners Standard.

3.2 Dental Practitioners

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- dental practitioners are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice
- appropriate policy and processes are in place to comply with the Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Dental Practitioners Standard.

3.3 Nurse Practitioners

Health Services Providers shall ensure:

- nurse practitioners employed or engaged in a position that requires endorsement as a nurse practitioner are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice
- appropriate policy and processes are in place to comply with the Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard.

3.4 Endorsed Midwives

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- endorsed midwives are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice
- appropriate policy and processes are in place to comply with the Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard.

3.5 Allied Health Professionals

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- allied health professionals must have their qualifications, registrations and memberships identified and verified, and have an agreed, documented scope of clinical practice
- appropriate policy and processes are in place to comply with the Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Allied Health and Health Science Professions Standard.

3.6 Aboriginal Health Practitioners

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- aboriginal health practitioners have their qualifications and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice.

4. Compliance Monitoring

Health Service Providers must develop internal processes to manage and monitor compliance with this Policy.

The System Manager may also conduct audits into Health Service Provider compliance with the Policy and related Standards.

The System Manager will use the results of Health Service Provider compliance audits and records relevant to scope of practice approvals to monitor compliance with and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy.

5. Related Documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this policy:

- [Credentiaing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Medical Practitioners Standard](#)
- [Credentiaing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Dental Practitioners Standard](#)
- [Credentiaing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard](#)
- [Credentiaing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Allied Health and Health Science Professions Standard](#)

6. Supporting Information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this policy:

- [Patient safety and quality systems | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#)
- [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Credentiaing health practitioners and defining their scope of clinical practice – A guide for managers and practitioners, December 2015](#)
- [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Credentiaing and defining the scope of clinical practice – fact sheet, 2012](#)
- [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency](#)
- [National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners](#)

7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this policy.

Term	Definition
Aboriginal health practitioner	An Aboriginal person employed, engaged or contracted by a Health Service Provider; who has completed the appropriate qualification; and is registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia to work as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner.
Allied health professional	A professional employed, engaged or contracted by Health Service Providers under the Professional Division and other Specified Callings schedule of the <i>Health Services Union of Western Australia Professional Administrative Clerical Technical Supervisory Industrial Agreement 2022 (HSUWA PACTS)</i> , excluding dentists. Additional allied health professions or other specified callings may also be included as agreed between the

	System Manager and Health Service Provider.
Health professional	A person who is a health practitioner registered under the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Western Australia)</i> or in a class of persons prescribed as a health professional under the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> .
Credentialing	The formal process used to verify the qualifications, experience, professional standing and other relevant professional attributes for the purpose of forming a view about their competence, performance and professional suitability to provide a safe, high quality healthcare service within specific environments.
Dental practitioner	A person registered by the Dental Board of Australia and legally able to practice within the scope of their registration as either a general dentist, dento-maxillofacial radiologist, endodontist, forensic odontologist, specialist in oral medicine, oral pathologist, oral surgeon, oral and maxillofacial surgeon, orthodontist, paediatric dentist, periodontist, prosthodontist, specialist in public health dentistry, specialist in special needs dentistry, dental hygienist, dental therapist, oral health therapist, or dental prosthetist.
Endorsed midwives	An individual midwife registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who holds an endorsement as a midwife eligible to prescribe, administer and supply scheduled medicines in accordance with state and territory legislation; and has entered into a Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives with a Health Service Provider.
Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives	An agreement between the Health Service Providers and the Endorsed Midwives to enable the use of state-owned equipment and facilities at sites with maternity units for the purpose of providing midwifery care to private patients of the midwife.
Medical practitioner	An individual registered by the Medical Board of Australia, whose name appears on the register of medical practitioners and/or medical specialists.
Nurse practitioner	An individual nurse registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who holds an endorsement as a nurse practitioner; and is engaged or employed by a Health Service Provider to provide services in a Health Care Facility or Health Care Facilities whose contract of employment is regulated by the Industrial Agreement.
Scope of clinical practice	The extent of an individual practitioner's approved clinical practice within a particular organisation based on an individual's credentials, competence, performance and professional suitability and the needs and capability of the organisation to support the practitioner's scope of clinical practice.

8. Policy Contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Chief Medical Officer
 Directorate: Office of the Chief Medical Officer
 Email: ocmo.ced@health.wa.gov.au

9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0084/18 v.1.0	10 May 2018	N/A	Original version.
MP 0084/18 v.1.1	29 May 2019	May 2019	Minor Amendment to fix broken links.
MP 0084/18 v.2.0	8 October 2019	May 2021	Amendment as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of Dental Practitioners Standard to section 3.2 Dental Practitioners. 			
MP 0084/18 v.3.0	29 November 2023	May 2024	Amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy requirements section 3.5 title Allied Health Practitioners and Health Science Professionals changed to Allied Health Professionals. • Inclusion of policy requirements section 3.6 Aboriginal Health Practitioners. • Updated and refined the Compliance Monitoring section. • Related document: 'Allied Health and Health Science Professions Standard' updated and amended. • Updated definition of Allied Health Professional; included new definition for Aboriginal Health Practitioners and removed definition for WA health system. • Inclusion of the supporting information: National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners. • Update of the HSUWA PACTS Agreement to 2022. • Updated email contact at Policy Contact section. 			
MP 0084/18 v.4.0	10 July 2024	May 2025	Amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to Health Professional definition. • Related document: Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard updated. 			
MP 0084/18 v.5.0	22 October 2024	May 2025	Amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related document: Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice for Medical Practitioners updated. 			
MP 0084/18 v. 6.0	24 February 2025	May 2025	Amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related document: Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard updated. 			

Note: Mandatory policies that exceed the scheduled review date will continue to remain in effect.

10. Approval

Approval by	Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health
Approval date	8 May 2018

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© Department of Health 2024

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.