



Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy (this policy) is to ensure that health professionals are credentialed and have a defined scope of clinical practice to support safe and high-quality health care within the WA health system.

This policy aligns with the [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards \(2nd ed\) Clinical Governance Standard](#).

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*.

This policy is also a mandatory requirement for the Department of Health pursuant to section 29 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to WA health entities specifically Health Service Providers that employ or engage staff who undertake clinical practice excluding Health Support Services and the Department of Health when employing or engaging medical practitioners who undertake relevant 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

WA health entities 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 health professionals employed or engaged by a Health Service Provider are credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice

- ensure medical practitioners employed or engaged by the Department of Health are credentialed and have 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.

Roles and responsibilities

The Department's Chief Medical Officer, Chief Dental Officer, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and the Chief Allied Health Officer oversee the credentialing and defined scope of clinical practice governance and implementation of the policy for their respective health professions. The Chief Medical Officer is responsible for the overall policy application and oversees compliance.

Specific mandatory professional stream requirements

3.1 Medical Practitioners

WA health entities (excluding Health Support Services) must 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 must 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 must ensure:

- nurse practitioners employed or engaged in a clinical 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](#) and section 7.7 of this Standard.

3.4 Endorsed Midwives

Health Service Providers must ensure:

- privately practicing endorsed midwives engaged in a clinical position that requires endorsement as an endorsed midwife 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](#) and section 7.7 of this Standard.

3.5 Allied Health Professionals

Health Service Providers must 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 [Credentiaing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Allied Health and Health Science Professions Standard](#).

3.6 Reporting

- WA health entities must complete the Annual Reporting Template for their specific health profession and submit to the Office of Chief Medical Officer at royalstreetcredentialing@health.wa.gov.au by 31 March of each year.

4. Compliance Monitoring

The Chief Medical Officer, on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy by requiring the HSPs and the Department of Health authorised officer to provide a signed annual reporting template for the previous calendar year by 31 March each year to the Policy Owner.

The Chief Dental Officer, on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy by requiring the authorised officer to provide a signed annual reporting template for the previous calendar year by 31 March each year to the Policy Owner.

The Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy by requiring the authorised officer to provide a signed reporting template for the previous calendar year by 31 March each year to the Policy Owner.

The Chief Allied Health Officer, on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy by requiring the authorised officer to provide a signed annual reporting template for the previous calendar year by 31 March each year to the Policy Owner.

The Chief Medical Officer, on behalf of the System Manager will use the results of the health professional reporting templates, compliance audits and records relevant to the health professional scope of practice to ensure alignment with the policy requirements and to 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](#)
- [Annual Reporting Template-Medical Practitioners](#)

- [Annual Reporting Template-Dental Practitioners](#)
- [Annual Reporting Template-Nursing and Midwifery](#)
- [Annual Reporting Template-Allied Health Professionals](#)

6. Supporting Information

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

- [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, National Model for Clinical Governance 2026](#)
- [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice – fact sheet, 2026](#)
- [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency](#)

7. Definitions

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

Term	Definition
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.
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.
Clinical practice	The professional activity undertaken by medical practitioners for the purposes of investigating patient symptoms and preventing and/or managing illness, together with associated professional activities related to patient care, such as Clinical Governance or Medical Administration
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.
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> .
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.
Privately practising 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 Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives with a Health Service Provider.
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.
WA health entity	WA health entities include: (i) Health Service Providers as established by an order under section 32(1)(b) of the Health Service Act 2016. (ii) Department of Health as an administrative division of the State of Western Australia pursuant to section 35 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994.
WA health system	The WA health system is comprised of: (i) the Department; (ii) Health Service Providers (North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service, WA Country Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA, Quadriplegic Centre and Health Support Services); and (iii) contracted health entities, to the extent they provide health services to the State.

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.
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. 			
MP 0084/18 v.7.0	30 June 2026	June 2029	Policy review and amendments as listed below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and Applicability sections refined to include the Department of Health as an applicable entity that must credential its employed medical practitioners. • Policy requirements: Mandatory stream requirements for Aboriginal Health Practitioners removed until a credentialing framework is developed for this profession. Inclusion of 3.6 Reporting section and requirements. 			

- Related document: inclusion of Annual Reporting Template for Medical Practitioners, Dental Practitioners, Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals. Updated Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Medical Practitioners Standard.
- Removal of all references to Aboriginal Health Practitioners.
- Definitions section: inclusion of WA health entity, WA health system definitions and privately practicing endorsed midwife. Removal of health professional, endorsed midwife, licensing agreement for endorsed midwives and Aboriginal Health Practitioner.

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.

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