

# Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy

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## 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.

The Policy is a mandatory requirement under the *Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework*.

This Policy supersedes OD 0177/09 *The Policy for Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Medical Practitioners (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, OD 0287/10 *Medical Practitioner Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, Credentialing, Reappointment and Recredentialing Processes within WA Health*, OD 0505/14 *Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical practice for Health Professionals (Nursing and Midwifery) in WA Health Services* and IC 181/14 *A Policy Handbook and Resources to support Health Services facilitate Access for Eligible Midwives*.

## 2. Applicability

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

## 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 Nurse Practitioners

Before referencing this mandatory policy please ensure you have the latest version from the [Policy Frameworks website](#).

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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

### **3.3 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

### **3.4 Allied Health Practitioners and Health Science 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 Practitioners and Health Science Professionals Standard

### **3.5 Dental Practitioners**

Health Service Providers shall ensure:

- processes are in place for dental practitioners to be credentialed and have a documented scope of clinical practice.

## **4. Compliance, monitoring and evaluation**

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

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

## 5. Related documents

The following documents are required to give affect to this Policy (i.e. the documents included are mandatory):

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

## 6. Supporting information

The following documents inform this Policy (i.e. documents that are not mandatory to the implementation of this policy but may support the implementation of the policy):

- Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Health Care, Safety and Quality Improvement Guidelines October 2012, Standard 1: Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Service Organisations available at: [https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Standard1\\_Oct\\_2012\\_WEB1.pdf](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Standard1_Oct_2012_WEB1.pdf)
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Credentialing health practitioners and defining their scope of clinical practice – A guide for managers and practitioners, December 2015 available at: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/credentialing-health-practitioners-and-defining-their-scope-of-clinical-practice-a-guide-for-managers-and-practitioners-december-2015/>
- Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard for credentialing and defining scope of clinical practice 2004 available at: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/credentialling/>
- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency available at: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>

## 7. Definitions

The following definitions are relevant to this Policy.

Term	Definition
Allied Health Professional	Allied Health and Health Science Professionals, Specified Callings, referred to under section 17.5 of the current HSU PACTS Award
Health Professional	A health practitioner registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Western Australia) or is in a class of persons prescribed as a health professional under the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> . (Refer to section 6 of 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 midwife	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 practitioners scope of clinical practice

## 8. Policy owner

**Assistant Director General Clinical Excellence**

Enquiries relating to this Policy may be directed to:

Title: Chief Medical Officer  
Division: Clinical Excellence  
Email: [chiefmedicalofficer@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:chiefmedicalofficer@health.wa.gov.au)

## 9. Review

This mandatory policy will be reviewed and evaluated as required to ensure relevance and recency. At a minimum it will be reviewed within 3 years after first issue and at least every 3 years thereafter.

Version	Effective from	Effective to	Amendment(s)
MP0084/18	10 May 2018	29 May 2019	Original version
MP0084/18 v.1.1	29 May 2019	10 May 2021	Minor Amendment – Fixed broken links

The review table indicates previous versions of the mandatory policy and any significant changes.

## 10. Approval

This mandatory policy has been approved and issued by the Director General of the Department of Health.

<b>Approval by</b>	Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health
<b>Approval date</b>	08 May 2018
<b>Published date</b>	29 May 2019
<b>RMR#</b>	FAA 51613



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