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SA Health

Policy

Clinical Governance for Advanced Practice and Extended Scope of Practice Roles Policy

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Version 1.4

Approval date: 29 June 2022

PDS Reference No: D0318

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Government
of South Australia

SA Health

1. Name of policy

Clinical Governance for Advanced Practice and Extended Scope of Practice Roles Policy

2. Policy statement

Critical to building health workforce capacity and capability is the need to support all clinicians to work to their full scope of practice to effectively meet the increasing demand on our services.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a robust and future focused framework of clinical governance to support registered nurses (including nurse practitioners), midwives, allied and scientific health professionals working at an advanced practice and extended scope of practice level within SA Health.

For the purpose of this Policy, advanced practice roles will not be identified separately. A mandatory instruction related to nurse practitioner roles can be found at the end of this document.

3. Applicability

This policy applies to all employees and contracted staff of SA Health; that is all employees and contracted staff of the Department for Health and Wellbeing, Local Health Networks (including state-wide services aligned with those Networks¹) and SA Ambulance Service.

4. Policy principles

SA Health's Clinical Governance for Advanced and Extended Scope of Practice Roles Policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- > We support quality, safe and culturally respectful practice
- > We support transparency and accountability
- > We provide future-focused sustainable and targeted priority health and wellbeing services which are aligned to local community and health service need
- > We support the consistent application of clinical governance elements across health practitioner disciplines
- > We support innovation and diversity balanced with sound clinical governance principles
- > We believe robust interdisciplinary partnerships underpin safe and quality consumer centred care

5. Policy requirements

Health services must ensure contemporary clinical governance frameworks underpin advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles to enable clinicians to practice to their full scope of practice within the professional, legislative and regulatory requirements

This involves ensuring that advanced practice and extended scope of clinical practice roles:

- > are aligned to health service need and community demand,
- > are responsive to health care needs of consumers across the age and health continuum of the South Australian community,

¹ 'Statewide services' includes Statewide Clinical Support Services, Prison Health, SA Dental Service, BreastScreen SA and any other state-wide services that fall under the governance of the Local Health Networks

- > reflect the diversity in clinician skills required to meet the health care needs of the broader community throughout metropolitan, rural and remote South Australia, and
- > deliver safe, quality and person-centred care which is effective and efficient.

Health services employing nurses, midwives, and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles must ensure that the clinical governance structures within the health service support safe, quality and person-centred care by integrating each of the elements of:

- > Governance, leadership and culture
- > Patient safety and quality improvement systems
- > Clinical performance and effectiveness
- > Safe environments for the delivery of care
- > Partnering with consumers

Governance, leadership and culture

Professional leadership supports an organisational culture and prioritises contemporary, high quality, compassionate, safe, person-centred care. Leaders must make explicit the professional relationships and responsibilities required to ensure nurses, midwives, and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles achieve quality clinical and health service outcomes by:

- > defining professional reporting lines and the corporate, financial and clinical accountability for the role,
- > developing role descriptions which are specific to nursing, midwifery, and allied and scientific health professional advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles,
- > engaging relevant professional groups to facilitate greater understanding of the advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles and where they fit in the health service,
- > enabling collaborative, multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and inter-professional relationships,
- > ensuring local procedure incorporates nursing, midwifery and allied and scientific health professionals advanced practice and extended scope of practice role where appropriate,
- > sustaining a safe, accountable and learning culture by including the nursing, midwifery, and allied and scientific health professionals advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles in leadership committees and activities,
- > facilitating opportunities for mentoring and the development of leadership capability,
- > provide opportunities for role progression and sustainability of advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles to capitalise upon existing roles.

Patient safety and quality improvement systems

SA Health must establish and monitor patient safety and quality improvement systems which enable nursing, midwifery, allied and scientific professionals advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles to participate in activities which promote consumer safety, mitigate risk and support ongoing high-quality care and improvement by:

- > providing clinical care within the parameters of safety and quality systems which support the delivery of safe, culturally respectful and high-quality health care,
- > participating in multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and inter-professional review of clinical care and clinical incidents,
- > contributing to the review of consumer feedback and incidents,
- > demonstrating professional leadership which promotes a culture of patient safety and quality improvement,

- > maintaining vigilance for opportunities to innovate and improve the provision of quality care with a commitment to a workforce trained in quality improvement approaches and methods, and
- > complying with professional, regulatory and industrial requirements and codes of conduct, relevant to the nursing, midwifery and allied and scientific health professionals advanced practice and extended scope of practice role.

Clinical performance and effectiveness

SA Health must provide contemporary and effective organisational systems which support safe, high-quality care to ensure nurses, midwives and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles:

- > have the right qualifications, skills and supervision,
- > meet the requirements of AHPRA and National Boards (including relevant professional Standards for Practice),
- > are credentialed and have a scope of clinical practice outlined within the job description, and that the credentials and scope of clinical practice is recorded in the Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice System (CSCPS),
- > practice within the parameters of the health service environment
- > have the necessary clinical education and training to practice safely,
- > meet the requirements of the [SA Health Performance Review and Development Policy](#), and
- > contribute and lead research and innovation within their area of speciality.

Safe environments for the delivery of care

Nurses, midwives, and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles must be included in the planning, development and co- design of clinical environments to ensure they promote and optimise the delivery of innovative, safe, quality and person-centred care. This is achieved through engagement and consultation in the:

- > development or co-design of health service environments,
- > expansion of telehealth services and digital solutions.

6. Mandatory related documents

Under this Policy, all employees of SA Health must comply with:

- > [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards 2021](#)
- > [Australian Government Department of Health Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme](#)
- > [Australian Government. Health Insurance \(Section 3C Midwife and Nurse Practitioner Services\) Determination 2020](#)
- > [Australian Government. Health Legislation Amendment \(Midwives and Nurse Practitioners\) Act 2010](#)
- > [Australian Government. Legislation \(Deferral of Sunsetting—National Health Midwives and Nurse Practitioners Instruments\) Certificate 2020](#)
- > [Australian Government. National Health \(Collaborative arrangements for nurse practitioners\) Determination 2010](#)
- > [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#)
- > [South Australia. Controlled Substances Act 1984](#)

- > [South Australia. Controlled Substances \(Poisons\) Regulations 2011](#)
- > [South Australia. Health Care Act 2008](#)
- > [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(South Australia\) Act 2010](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, Registration standards](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Registration standard: Continuing Professional Development](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Professional Standards](#)
- > [SA Health. Pathology Requisition Initiating Policy Guideline 2017](#)
- > [SA Health. Registration of Health Practitioners-Recording and Monitoring Policy Directive 2013](#)
- > [Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing Roles Policy](#)
- > [Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Midwives Policy](#)
- > [National Health Act 1953](#)
- > [Credentialing for Allied and Scientific Health Professionals Policy Directive](#)
- > [SA Health Clinical Supervision Framework](#)

7. Supporting documents

- > [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Model Clinical Governance Framework. Sydney. ACSQHC; 2017](#)
- > [Credentialing health practitioners and defining their scope of clinical practice: A guide for managers and practitioners, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care \(2015\)](#)
- > [SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Directions 2019-2022](#)
- > [SA Health, State Public Health Plan 2019-2024](#)
- > [South Australia's Rural Aboriginal Health Workforce Plan 2021-2026](#)
- > [SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Framework 2017-2022](#)
- > [South Australian Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- > [Guide to Good Prescribing: A practical manual, World Health Organisation](#)
- > [National Prescribing Service \(NPS\)](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, Guidelines: For nurses applying for endorsement as a nurse practitioner](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, Registration standards](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Registration standard: Continuing Professional Development](#)
- > [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Telehealth guidance for practitioners](#)
- > [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme \(NRAS\)](#)
- > [Allied health registration, credentialing and professional associations](#)
- > [QLD Health Ministerial Taskforce on health practitioner extended scope of practice](#)

8. Definitions

- > **Advanced practice in nursing and midwifery:** means nurses and midwives practising at an advanced practice level incorporate professional leadership, education, research and support of systems into their practice. Their practice includes relevant expertise, critical thinking, complex decision-making, autonomous practice and is effective and safe. They work within a generalist or specialist context and they are responsible and accountable for managing people who have more complex healthcare requirements.
- > **Allied and Scientific Health Professionals:** means registered, self- regulated and unregulated allied and scientific health professions (see individual definitions).
- > **Clinical governance:** means a set of relationships and responsibilities to ensure good clinical outcomes. It is an integrated component of the broader corporate governance of health services.
- > **Credentialing:** means the formal process used to verify the qualifications, experience and other relevant professional attributes of health practitioners for the purpose of forming a view about their competence, performance and professional suitability to provide safe, high-quality health services within specific clinical environments.
- > **CSCPS:** the Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice System for Health Practitioners holds information regarding the credentialing and scope of clinical practice status of SA Health Medical Practitioners, Dental Practitioners, Allied and Scientific Health staff, Nurse Practitioners, Eligible Midwives and SA Ambulance Service staff.
- > **Endorsement:** means the endorsement of registration which identifies registered nurses and midwives with additional qualifications and specific expertise who meet the requirements of the relevant registration standard.
- > **Extended scope of practice:** means the expertise beyond the currently recognised scope of practice of the health profession. An extended scope of practice requires endorsement by the National Board.
- > **Corporate Governance:** means the establishment of systems and processes that shape, enable and oversee management of the organisation. This includes the activity undertaken to develop organisational strategy and supporting policy to ensure that appropriate risk management and accountability arrangements are in place throughout the organisation.
- > **Nurse practitioner (NP):** a registered nurse endorsed as a nurse practitioner by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. The nurse practitioner practices at an advanced level, meets and complies with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, [Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice](#), has direct clinical contact and practices within their scope under the legislatively protected title 'nurse practitioner' under the National Law.
- > **Nurse practitioner candidate/Transitional nurse practitioner:** means a nurse practitioner candidate (NPC) employed in a designated position within the health sector working towards NP endorsement, by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia. The duration of candidacy is determined at a local level.
- > **Registered professions:** means Registered professions that are legislated to meet the requirements of registration. This ensures recognition of a minimum standard of training in a particular field. Registration is through the relevant Professional Board of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA). Registered professions are not permitted to practise in clinical or clinical supervisory roles without holding current registration with their respective board via AHPRA.

- > **Scope of clinical practice:** means the extent (scope) of the health practitioner’s clinical practice within a particular organisation based on the individual’s credentials, capability, competence, performance and professional suitability.
- > **Self-regulated professions:** means allied or scientific health professionals that meet and maintain the standards set by the relevant profession and professional association.
- > **Unregulated professions (Allied Health related):** means any allied or scientific health profession that is not registered or self-regulated who provide allied health-related clinical services to patients or consumers.

9. Compliance

This policy is binding on those to whom it applies or relates. Implementation at a local level may be subject to audit/assessment. The Domain Custodian must work towards the establishment of systems which demonstrate compliance with this policy, in accordance with the requirements of the [System-wide Integrated Compliance Policy](#).

Any instance of non-compliance with this policy should be reported to the Domain Custodian for the Clinical Governance Safety & Quality and the Domain Custodian for the Risk, Compliance and Audit Policy Domain.

Refer to mandatory instruction 2 for specific SA Health-wide compliance indicators

10. Document ownership

Policy owner: Executive Director Provider Commissioning and Performance as Domain Custodian for the Clinical Governance Safety and Quality Policy Domain

Title: Clinical Governance for Advanced Practice and Extended Scope of Practice Roles Policy

ISBN: 978-1-76083-527-9

Objective reference number: A3557789

Review date: 29 June 2025

Contact for enquiries: Nursing and Midwifery Office | Clinical Collaborative System Leadership and Design

11. Document history

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Amendment notes
1.4	22 April 2022	Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate & System Support Services	Updated to meet new policy framework requirements and template Updated to reflect Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care- National Model for Clinical Governance
1.3	25/08/2016	Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Nursing and Midwifery Office, Office for Professional Leadership, System Performance and Service Delivery	Amended language describing Nurse Practitioners to match NMBA.

1.2	18/05/2016	Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Nursing and Midwifery Office, Office for Professional Leadership, System Performance and Service Delivery	Amended hyperlinks to old Nursing and Midwifery Office domain website.
1.1	3107/2014	Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Nursing and Midwifery Office, System Performance	Amended to include reference to new regulations and updated to new template.
1	07/03/2013	PE Approved	PE Approved version

12. Appendices

1. Mandatory Instruction for Nurse Practitioners working in SA Health
2. SA Health-wide compliance indicators

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Appendix 1: Mandatory Instruction for Nurse Practitioner working in SA Health

Nurse practitioners are an integral part of the professional health care workforce, providing clinical focussed, autonomous and collaborative nursing care across a variety of contexts. They play a vital role in provision of quality and connected patient care at local, regional and state level within SA Health.

The Mandatory Instruction for nurse practitioner working in SA Health outlines what is required of health services when seeking to implement, integrate and enable sustainable nurse practitioner roles into health service.

Planning, implementation, integration and sustainability

Health services are required to work collaboratively and in partnership with nurse practitioners to create and embed sustainable nurse practitioner models of care which meet existing and future health care needs of the South Australian community.

Health services planning to introduce and implement a nurse practitioner into service delivery models must consider how the role will align with organisational priorities, workforce planning and the overall health service strategic direction.

The need for a nurse practitioner role must be clearly identified by health service nursing leaders and executive service planners prior to the introduction of the role. This includes aligning the nurse practitioner role with:

- > organisational priorities and health service delivery need;
- > gaps in service provision including opportunity for service delivery reform;
- > key service priority areas in which a nurse practitioner role will contribute to service delivery and improved community health outcomes;
- > SA Health clinical governance frameworks
- > safe, quality and person-centred care.

Health services must engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure that all professional, regulatory, legislative and organisational requirements are considered in developing nurse practitioner models of care.

All nurse practitioner positions must have a Role Description which details the work descriptors outlined in the relevant [Nursing/Midwifery \(South Australian Public Sector\) Enterprise Agreement](#). Role Descriptions for new nurse practitioner roles must be submitted to the SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Classification Assessment Panel for consideration and approval.

Pivotal to the successful integration of the nurse practitioner role is a comprehensive understanding of the role and function of the nurse practitioner. This includes:

- > direct and indirect reporting relationships;
- > local clinical governance arrangements;
- > service delivery frameworks;
- > scope of clinical practice;
- > opportunity for role and service growth.

Embedding sustainable nurse practitioner models of care within health services requires a commitment to robust succession planning and service evolution in line with the needs of the health service. This includes:

- > nurse practitioner candidate positions supported by robust governance frameworks to provide enabling pathways for the nurse practitioner workforce;
- > connecting and growing state-wide nurse practitioner networks.

Scope of Clinical Practice

The nurse practitioner scope of practice is built on the foundation of the registered nurse scope of practice and must meet Australian regulatory and professional requirements including the Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia, [Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice](#), the [Code of Conduct for Nurses](#) and the [Code of Ethics for Nurses](#).

The scope of clinical practice of the nurse practitioner is determined by the context in which the nurse practitioner is authorised to practice. Health services must determine the extent (or scope) of the nurse practitioners' clinical practice within a health service based on the individual's credentials, capability, competence, performance and professional suitability. This will include:

- > the health service demand and the capacity to support the nurse practitioner scope of clinical practice;
- > regular review of the scope of clinical practice to ensure it continues to support contemporary clinical practice and evolves to meet changing community and service need.

Scope of clinical practice changes (including expanding scope) must satisfy the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, [Decision-making Framework for nursing and midwifery](#). Nurse practitioners prescribing medicines within SA Health must understand and comply with relevant South Australian drugs and poisons legislation and be approved [Australian Government Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) prescribers](#).

Clinical Governance Frameworks

Health services employing nurse practitioners must ensure that contemporary, robust nursing led clinical governance arrangements support the provision of safe, quality and person-centred care in collaboration with other professional partners.

This includes evidence of the inclusion and integration of the following components as outlined by the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care:

- > Governance, leadership and culture
- > Patient safety and quality improvement
- > Clinical performance and effectiveness
- > Safe environment for the delivery of care
- > Partnering with consumers

Local Health Network Credentialing Committees must ensure that nurse practitioners meet the requirements of the [Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing Roles Policy](#) Where prescribing forms part of the scope of clinical practice it must be recorded in the [SA Health Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice System \(CSCPS\)](#) as part of the credentialing process. Nurse practitioners without a notation that prescribing forms part of the scope of clinical practice are not authorised to prescribe medications in SA Health.

Appendix 2: Mandatory Instruction for SA Health Compliance Indicators

The SA Health-wide compliance indicators for this Policy are set out below. These indicators are required to be met across all SA Health services.

Indicator	Description
Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice System (CSCPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All nurses, midwives, and allied and scientific health professionals with an advanced practice and extended scope of practice role have an approved scope of clinical practice, are credentialed and recorded in the CSCPS.
Governance, leadership and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Health service clinical governance arrangements reflect the principles outlined in the Policy
Patient safety and quality improvement systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurses, midwives and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles are involved in activities which promote consumer safety, mitigate risk and support ongoing high-quality care
Clinical performance and effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurses, midwives and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles practicing within full scope of practice professional, legislative and regulatory requirements
Safe environments for the delivery of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurses, midwives and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles are engaged during the review and redevelopment of clinical environments
Partnering with consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of nurses, midwives and allied and scientific health professionals in advanced practice and extended scope of practice roles partnering with consumers to promote health literacy, cultural inclusion and sensitivity, access to high quality and easy to understand information and shared decision making