

Health Professional Level 5

1. Senior/Specialist Practitioner Stream

Definition:

Health Professionals at this level will use skills extended beyond the current recognised scope of practice and possess the ability to clinically reason and problem-solve a complex clinical caseload.

Health professionals at this level will have completed an additional and recognised postgraduate qualification in clinical practice and advanced training in the relevant specialist area. Demonstrating clinical professional leadership attributes, including experience in organisational, national and international research and education.

Description

A senior health professional with specialist skills recognised at an extended scope level within their field of expertise. Act as a consultant, expert practitioner and leader for professional advice within their specialty field. Persons at this level are expected to have extensive experience in their professional field and knowledge of national and international trends and research.

They are expected to contribute to the development of their field of expertise in their own workplace and, and be actively contributing to the development of inter-professional knowledge and skills within their field of work, contributing to evidence-based practice and service delivery.

Definitions to support HP5 Senior/Specialist Practitioner Stream:

Advanced training includes:

- Post-graduate qualification in the relevant area of Advanced Scope Practice/ Extended Scope Practice
- A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio providing evidence of ongoing CPD at post-graduate level relevant to role

Definitions of advanced and extended scope physiotherapy rolesⁱ

“Advanced Scope of Practice Physiotherapy roles have been defined as:

A role that is within currently recognised scope of practice for that profession, but that through custom and practice has been performed by other professions. The advanced role would require additional training, competency development as well as significant clinical experience and formal peer recognition. This role describes the depth of practice.

Extended scope Physiotherapy roles have been defined as:

A role that is outside the currently recognised scope of practice and requires legislative change. Extended scope of practice requires some method of credentialing following additional training, competency development and significant clinical experience. Examples include prescribing, injecting and surgery. This role describes the breadth of practice.

It is important to note that scope of practice will change and that some roles considered extended now, may not be in the future.”

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

ⁱ Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee. The Australian Allied Health Workforce. An overview of Workforce Planning Issues, Report 2006.1. North Sydney: AHWAC NAHAC Endorsed National Definitions; 2006. Available from: <http://www.ahwo.gov.au/documents/Publications/2006/The%20Australian%20allied%20health%20workforce.pdf>.