

Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum

Position Statement

Development of Prescribing Standards and Accreditation Processes

The proposed introduction of a national approach to prescribing by health professionals, other than medical practitioners, covers important concepts such as prescribing models, competency attainment, registration and endorsement, and safety, quality and practice issues (the 'Health Professions Prescribing Pathway' (HPPP). This provides an opportunity to detail high level principles for those accreditation councils looking to develop prescribing standards in the future.

This position statement, developed by the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum (the Forum), provides guiding principles for accreditation authorities to consider when developing and/or reviewing prescribing standards for their profession.

- a) The *Prescribing Competency Framework* developed by NPS Medicinewise is the nationally recognised standard for prescribing education of health professionals. Standards for prescribing education and training programs of study must be aligned to this framework.
- b) The professional context of the health profession and the role the profession takes in the prescribing process must also be considered in developing standards that not only take into consideration scope of practice but also any legislative restrictions placed on prescribing rights.
- c) All standards must be developed in accordance with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) *Procedures for the Development of Accreditation Standards* and the *Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function*.
- d) Standards must also be developed and/or reviewed to take into account broader developments in the health sector and in the regulation and quality assurance of higher education including, but not limited to, Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA), compliance with Australian Qualifications Framework and other projects emanating from Health Workforce Australia (HWA).

The Forum is working with its Members to ensure efficient and effective accreditation processes are developed (for example, development of a glossary of standardised terms) at the same time respecting the diversity of approaches of individual accreditation councils to these processes.

Adopted
6 December 2013

Health Professions Prescribing Pathway

The first stage of the Health Workforce Australia HPPP project is complete and work will now commence on implementation. A report containing the final HPPP and high level recommendations for implementation was approved by the Standing Council on Health on 8 November 2013.

HWA will now work with governments, educators, accreditation bodies and the national boards on the implementation of HPPP. This will include addressing key issues such as regulatory practice, education standards, accreditation and training.

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<http://www.hwa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/14-11-2013/final-health-professionals-prescribing-pathway-approved>

NPS Medicinewise Prescribing Competencies Framework

NPS Medicinewise recognises the need for, and value of, a consistent and standard approach to prescribing for all health professionals with prescribing rights. In a bid to promote quality use of medicines across all prescribing professions, they developed the *Prescribing Competencies Framework*.

The *Prescribing Competencies Framework* describes the competencies that health professionals require to prescribe medicines judiciously, appropriately, safely and effectively in the Australian healthcare system

<http://www.nps.org.au/health-professionals/professional-development/prescribing-competencies-framework>

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Procedures for the Development of Accreditation Standards

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/AHPRA-Publications.aspx#procedures>

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function.

Accreditation authorities, National Boards and AHPRA have agreed to this Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function (the Quality Framework). The Quality Framework is the principal reference document for National Boards and AHPRA to assess the work of accreditation authorities.

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/AHPRA/Publications.aspx#accreditation>