



Draft Guidance for Clinicians and Managers responsible for defining Scope of Practice at the Appointment and Reappointment of Credentialed Practitioners

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare

March 2015

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the national association of the dietetic profession with over 5800 members, and branches in each state and territory. DAA provides leadership in dietetics, food and nutrition for healthier people and healthier nations. The DAA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the “Draft Guidance for Clinicians and Managers responsible for Defining Scope of Practice at the Appointment and Reappointment of Credentialed Practitioners” by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

Contact Person: Tania Passingham
Position: Professional Services Manager
Organisation: Dietitians Association of Australia
Address: 1/8 Phipps Close, Deakin ACT 2600
Telephone: 02 6163 5200
Facsimile: 02 6282 9888
Email: tpassingham@daa.asn.au

DAA interest in this consultation

DAA is interested in this consultation as recently work was completed on the Dietitians Scope of Practice and Scope Decision Tool to assist individual practitioners to determine their scope of practice.

As a self regulated profession, dietetics is governed by the independent Dietetic Credentialing Council (DCC) who works to provide a robust framework for the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) credential.

APDs are subject to random annual audit, must engage in minimum 30 hours Continuing Professional Development annually, work within a Code of Conduct and have a strong complaints and disciplinary process where needed.

The APD credential is recognised by Medicare, Department of Veterans Affairs and Health Funds.

Recommendations

DAA supports any mechanisms that aid in providing clarity for an individual practitioner's scope of practice which then also assists in providing safety and quality care for those who stand to benefit from the health care interventions.

Discussion – Consultation Questions

- 1. Is the information provided in the resource useful? If not, what additional information would you suggest be included? What information could be removed?**

The information provided in the document is useful as it:

- clearly articulates the purpose – for an individual medical practitioner in the health service
- provides clear definitions
- has a defined way to move into areas of new scope

- 2. Are the language and format of the resource appropriate? If not, please provide suggested changes.**

The language and format are appropriate. It may be useful to provide a more pictorial guide of the pathway and decision making process to assist individuals in determining their scope.

An example of this is shown in the Dietitians Scope of Practice <http://daa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Dietitian-Scope-of-Practice-2014v2.pdf>

3. Did you find the level of detail provided appropriate to the target audience of managers and clinicians responsible for defining scope of practice? If not, how could it be improved?

The level of detail was appropriate to the target audience.

4. What additional resources and support are needed for health services to effectively implement processes to define scope of practice and conduct credentialling?

This document is primarily relating to the credentialing of medical officers and as DAA is an allied health professional association, not a service, no comment can be provided on these issues. From a point of view of scope of practice from DAA/allied health the following points are made in challenging some of the barriers to change in scope of practice.

- Acceptance of any procedural change requires a change management approach that acknowledges the challenges and uncertainties and, of course, the resistance that may exist.
- Management who aim to implement new processes (if they do not exist or only exist in an ad hoc way) need to gain support and engagement from all levels.
- There also needs to be opportunities available to move through increased scope so that practitioners have a way forward to safely and effectively provide new and extended services as an individual practitioner within the health service.

5. Do you have any general comments in relation to the resource?

As the document is directed to at the Medical profession, it is very AHPRA focussed. There may be scope to expand to the self-regulated professions for benchmarking and review of and how scope is managed in other forums.