



Chief Psychiatrist's Standards for **Prescribed Medical Practitioners**

Issued under section 547 of the *Mental Health Act 2014*
and *Mental Health Regulations 2015*

February 2025

Scope of this standard

This standard applies to all Health Service Providers seeking to appoint Prescribed Medical Practitioners, and to all Prescribed Medical Practitioners performing a function or exercising a power under the *Mental Health Act 2014*.

This standard must be implemented by HSPs in a way that is consistent with the objects and principles of the *Mental Health Act 2014*.

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Version Control

Purpose	Statutory Requirement under the <i>MHA 2014</i>		
Relevant To	All Health Service Providers seeking to appoint Prescribed Medical Practitioners (PMPs), and to all PMPs performing a function or exercising a power under the MHA 2014.		
Approval Authority	Dr Nathan Gibson, Chief Psychiatrist		
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2.0	13/02/25	Current	OCP52664
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Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our State and its waters. We pay our respects to Elders who were, who are and who will be, and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples seeing this message.

We acknowledge the individual and collective expertise of those with a living or lived experience of mental health, alcohol, and other drug issues. We recognise their vital contribution at all levels, and value the courage of those who share this unique perspective for the purpose of learning and growing together to achieve better outcomes for all.

We are committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination in the provision of health and mental health services.

Introduction

The *Mental Health Act 2014* (MHA 2014) uses the term 'psychiatrist' to describe a medical practitioner who can carry out certain MHA 2014 functions.

For the definition of 'psychiatrist' in s. 4 of the MHA 2014, in addition to medical practitioners who are fellows of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the following people are prescribed under Regulation 4A(3) of the Mental Health Regulations 2015:

- a) Medical practitioners who hold specialist registration in WA in the specialty of psychiatry.
- b) Medical practitioners who hold limited registration in WA that enables them to practice in the specialty of psychiatry.
- c) Individual medical practitioners whose names and registration are set out in the Mental Health Regulations 2015.

This standard describes the criteria for individual medical practitioners to apply to have their name and registration added to the *Mental Health Regulations 2015*, allowing them to carry out the functions of a 'psychiatrist' under the MHA 2014.

These medical practitioners are referred to as Prescribed Medical Practitioners.

Prescribed Medical Practitioners exercise significant powers and functions which impact the rights of individuals. The need for accountable procedures and processes and the establishment of rigorous knowledge and skill requirements are fundamental to the proper and effective administration of the MHA 2014 for the protection of individual rights, and patient, carer and community confidence in the system of care.

This standard is issued under s. 547 of the MHA 2014. It must be implemented in a way that is consistent with the objects and principles of the MHA 2014.

The standard applies to all Health Service Providers (HSPs) and their staff and requires the Chief Executive of a HSP to have in place internal procedures that comply with its requirements.

Standard: Competencies for Prescribed Medical Practitioners

The purpose of this standard is to set out the requirements for the following medical practitioners to seek approval to apply the provisions of the MHA 2014:

- senior psychiatric registrars,
- senior medical practitioners,¹ and
- specialist international medical graduates on pathways to fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) or pathways through the Medical Board of Australia to specialist registration as a psychiatrist,

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and experienced, and are supported by their employing Health Service Provider to apply the provisions of the MHA 2014 at that service.

The criteria for medical practitioners to be prescribed, and the acceptable evidence to be provided are identified as a Prescribed Medical Practitioners is noted below. Each application will be individually assessed on its merits.

See also the 'Conditions of appointment' as indicated in the [Chief Psychiatrist's Guideline for Prescribed Medical Practitioners 2025](#).

Registration requirements

Criterion		Factors for validation	Acceptable evidence
1	Current registration.	General or provisional registration with register of practitioners held by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (APHRA).	Registration certificate/record indicating currency, and any conditions, undertakings or reprimands

¹ **WA HEALTH SYSTEM - MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS - AMA INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT 2016:** "Senior Medical Practitioner" means a medical practitioner who does not have a recognised specialist qualification but practices without clinical supervision exclusively in a specialist area recognised by the AMC or such other area recognised by the Director General of Health as being a specialist area; and/or who clinically supervises other practitioners; and/or who has significant medical administration duties (50% as guide). Promotion to the position of Senior Medical Practitioner shall be by appointment only.

Required competencies

Criterion	Factors for validation	Acceptable evidence
2 a) Substantial clinical expertise in the examination and assessment of persons suspected of having a mental illness and the treatment and care of persons with a diagnosed mental illness.	• A minimum of six years practice in the specialty of psychiatry. • A minimum of two years of this experience at a senior level i.e.: ○ Senior Medical Practitioner as per WA Award (or interstate equivalent) OR ○ Senior registrar (generally within one year of gaining FRANZCP) OR ○ overseas equivalent • Experience in a range of mental health settings including at minimum inpatient, community and Emergency Department/s.	• Curriculum Vitae (CV) outlining employment details, skills, experience and continuing education. • Two professional references – one from immediate supervisor/nominator. • Senior registrars must provide evidence of the support of their current supervisor. • International specialists on pathways to FRANZCP through RANZCP, or to specialist registration through the Medical Board of Australia, must provide evidence of acceptance and progress on their pathway. • Letter of support from Director/ Clinical Head of Service confirming skills and experience.
b) Have the qualifications, training and experience appropriate for performing the functions of a psychiatrist under the MHA 2014.	At minimum, completion of: • the Referrer's eLearning Package (ReLP) and the Clinician's eLearning Package (CeLP – available at Home MHA2014 (elearn.net.au) and must have been completed within the last 12 months. • WA specific training regarding working with Aboriginal people, equity, diversity and inclusion.	• ReLP and CeLP certificates dated within the last 12 months. • Current CV. • Evidence of other relevant training completed. • Letter of support from Director/Clinical Head of Service regarding current and previous experience in use of mental health legislation.

Criterion	Factors for validation	Acceptable evidence
	- Any other training approved by the Chief Psychiatrist which may include attendance at face-to-face training to consolidate eLearning knowledge. Evidence of current and previous experience using mental health legislation, preferably the MHA 2014 with specific reference to the following: - Sound knowledge and understanding of the MHA 2014. - The objects and principles of the Act. - Key principles of assessment and examination, including the criteria, assessment of capacity, rights of consumers, rights of carers, and principles of least restrictive practice - The use of transport orders. - Principles of the treatment and care of persons on involuntary treatment orders, including inpatient treatment orders and community treatment orders, including the criteria, assessment of capacity, rights of consumers, rights of carers, and least restrictive principles. - Seclusion and physical restraint, including an understanding of the impact on consumers, the international focus on their elimination, Human Rights considerations, and approaches to minimising their use in the hospital setting. - The rights of patients and support persons. - The role of the Mental Health Advocacy Service. - The role of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.	Where attendance at face-to-face training provided by the Chief Psychiatrist is mandated for a practitioner, completion of test at end of training to a satisfactory standard.

Criterion	Factors for validation	Acceptable evidence
c) A commitment to continuing education relevant to the area of mental health.	Evidence of continuing medical education (CME) during the previous two years. Possible domains include: • Self-Guided Learning e.g. relevant structured formal learning, courses, conferences, accredited online modules, teaching activities. • Peer Review e.g. participation in formal peer review group, group or individual supervision. • Practice Improvement Activities e.g. participation in quality improvement activities, service review, participation in Root Cause Analysis (RCA) or similar investigations, Mortality & Morbidity committee membership, multisource feedback and research activities.	• Certificate of courses completed/ evidence of attendance. • Peer group attendance register. • Supporting letter from Director/ Clinical Head of Service detailing CME and professional development activities carried out. • For applications from 2025 onwards, CME record from medical practitioner's CPD Home (or overseas equivalent for international specialists).
d) Current credentialing with a WA Health Service (Senior Medical Practitioner or overseas specialist only), Criminal Record Screening (CRS) and Working with Children (WWC) approvals.		• Evidence of current credentialing (Senior Medical Practitioner, overseas specialist). • Current Working with Children check. • Current Criminal Record Screening. • Other relevant credentialing requirements appropriate to the role and function of a PMP e.g. completion of training in Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault.
e) Able to commit to ongoing CME and supervision through a suitable peer or 1:1 supervision process.	Minimum of 50 hours CPD and 10 peer or 1:1 supervision sessions per year. Peer supervision sessions run according to RANZCP requirement.	• Certificate of compliance from 'CPD Home' (provide annually).