Draft Scope of Clinical Practice – Forensic Pathology

This draft has been prepared in consultation with the State Scope of Clinical Practice Forensic Pathology Working Group, which includes broad representation of Specialist Forensic Pathologists.

Information about the State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit and the project to develop Model Scopes of Clinical Practice (SoCPs) for use within NSW Health facilities can be found here: www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/ssocpu.

The Model SoCPs are intended to assist Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks to achieve clarity and uniformity in the way practitioners’ scope of clinical practice is defined, whilst still allowing for local decisions to be made in accordance with the facility’s need and its role delineation. The Model SoCPs will provide a measure of expert input and advice when considering the credentials appropriate for the practice of particular specialties and sub-specialties.

Please note that the final Forensic Pathology SoCP format as presented in the Mercury eCredential system may appear differently to the format shown here.

Feedback on the draft Model Scope of Clinical Practice for Forensic Pathology can be submitted to the State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit before Tuesday 27 September 2016 on the contact details below:

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Forensic Pathologists support the medico-legal and judicial systems in:
- determining cause(s) of death and injury
- supporting the investigation of circumstances surrounding deaths
- the interpretation of autopsy findings (including but not limited to forensic aspects of radiology, histology, toxicology, microbiology, paediatric pathology and anthropology)
- offering an expert opinion in death investigation.

Forensic Pathologists mainly support the Coroner's investigation of reportable deaths that fall within the jurisdiction of the NSW Coroners Act, but may also include investigation of deaths defined by other Acts such as the Human Tissue Act and Anatomy Act.

See ‘specific credentialing’ for items not included within ‘core’.

### Qualification Required for Core Scope of Clinical Practice

Eligible for registration with the Medical Board of Australia as a Specialist Forensic Pathologist, and/or overseas trained specialist pathways.

### Service Role Delineation

Note that scope of clinical practice granted may only be exercised at the site(s) and/or setting(s) that have sufficient space, equipment, staffing, and other resources required to support the scope of clinical practice.

Forensic Pathology at [location] is a level X service.

Patient Age Limitation for Forensic Pathology at [facility]


Optional free-text field for LHDs to add more information about a department’s role delineation, if desired.
### Clinical Duties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Duties</th>
<th>May admit patients within the designated specialty under the practitioner’s own name. May accept transfer of care to the nominated practitioner. (Restricted admitting rights means that limited rights can be exercised within specific parameters.)</th>
<th>☐ Yes ☐ Restricted ☐ No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admitting</td>
<td>Participation in the appropriate specialty on-call roster and other on-call rosters as required and requested.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-call</td>
<td>May be invited for consultation on patients admitted (or being treated) by another practitioner.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>May sign out or authorise reports on diagnostic investigations requested by another practitioner.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>May hold an outpatient or privately referred non-inpatient clinic in the practitioner’s own name or to participate in a multidisciplinary clinic taking final responsibility for the care of patients attending.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatients</td>
<td>May open an operating theatre or a day procedure unit.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedural</td>
<td>May access patients for the purpose of teaching.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>May participate in research projects or clinical trials.</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical Duties may be part of the service/employment contract, or may be part of the scope of clinical practice.
This section describes procedures or practices which require specific credentialing for safe and effective performance, but which are within the practice of Forensic Pathology. Specific credentialing and determination of a specific scope of clinical practice is required where it cannot be reasonably assumed the practitioner’s qualifications include the specific competency. The gaining of the specific competency may involve additional training, experience, or both training and experience. Requests for specific scope of clinical practice should be specified in the credentialing application.

### Areas of Practice Requiring Specific Credentialing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Practice Requiring Specific Credentialing</th>
<th>Qualifications/experience required</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Patient Age Limitations</th>
<th>Specific Scope of Clinical Practice Granted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None identified</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any standards for attainment or maintenance of competence suggested as a threshold are developed by specialist medical/dental colleges, specialty societies or NSW Health organisations with expert guidance. They are not intended as an automatic barrier to practice or service delivery. Such standards should be treated as a guideline only and a trigger for review. Regardless of the threshold, acceptable results must be demonstrated, especially for procedures with significant risk. In some situations accreditation standards or NSW Health policy directives may be cited and credentials/medical appointments committees should give these due consideration.
Extended Scope of Clinical Practice

This section is for areas of practice outside the range of Forensic Pathology outlined above for which the practitioner may have training and experience. If the clinical work falls within the remit of a different specialty, the scope of clinical practice for that specialty may be applied.

Free text – no list created.

Emergency Practice

A registered health practitioner may provide any treatment (whether or not such treatment is within their approved clinical privileges/scope of practice) which is necessary, as a matter of urgency, to save a patient’s life or to prevent serious damage to a patient’s health, provided there is no other immediately available health practitioner with approved clinical privileges/scope of practice which includes that treatment.

Exclusions

This section will list clinical work within the normal and customary practice of Forensic Pathology, which may not be conducted by the practitioner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Practice Excluded from SoCP</th>
<th>[list here any clinical work that may not be undertaken by the practitioner, including temporary restrictions]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time frame for review (if exclusion is temporary)</td>
<td>[specify time frame if applicable]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice Conditions, Undertakings, Reprimands, Endorsements and Notations as per the Medical/Dental Board of Australia

[automatic feed from AHPRA public database to appear in eCredential]

Outcomes of Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

Practitioner Name

Medical Registration Number:

Head of Department

Scope of Clinical Practice granted for the period of (maximum five years):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Finish Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD/MM/YYYY</td>
<td>DD/MM/YYYY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final wording to be consistent with statement in NSWH Credentialing Policy