Scope of Clinical Practice – Infectious Diseases

This draft has been prepared in consultation with the State Scope of Clinical Practice Infectious Diseases Working Group, which includes broad representation of Specialist Infectious Diseases Physicians.

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 Infectious Diseases SoCP format as presented in the Mercury eCredential system may appear differently to the format shown here.

Questions regarding the draft Model Scope of Clinical Practice for Infectious Diseases can be submitted to the State Scope of Clinical Practice Unit on the contact details below:

Dr Roger Boyd, Director
Tel: (02) 9887 5674
Email: roger.boyd@health.nsw.gov.au

Jennifer Chapman, Project Manager
Tel: (02) 9887 5656
Email: jennifer.chapman@health.nsw.gov.au

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# Core Scope of Clinical Practice for the Specialty of Infectious Diseases

Infectious Diseases is concerned with the prevention, investigation, diagnosis, epidemiology and management of human illness caused by infectious agents. Other core duties include antimicrobial stewardship, and infection prevention and control. As there are non-infectious illnesses that may mimic the presentation of an infectious disease, it is therefore important that the Infectious Diseases specialist has a strong grounding in Internal Medicine or Paediatrics. Research and teaching are important parts of the role.

Infectious Diseases Physicians are adept at working within a multidisciplinary team (MDT), including other subspecialties and generalists, as infection is frequently part of a range of other conditions that require active management and population health interventions.

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

## Qualifications Required for Core Scope of Clinical Practice

- **Eligible for registration with the Medical Board of Australia as a Specialist Infectious Diseases Physician, and/or overseas trained specialist pathways**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications Met?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This document is focused on defining qualifications related to competency to exercise scope of clinical practice. The applicant must also adhere to any additional organisational, regulatory, or accreditation requirements that the organisation is obliged to meet.

## 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. For more information, see [www.health.nsw.gov.au/roledelineation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/roledelineation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infectious Diseases at [location] is a level X service.</th>
<th>Patient Age Limitation for Infectious Diseases at [facility]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Optional free-text field for LHDs to add more information about a department’s role delineation, if desired.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Duties</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admitting</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-call</td>
<td>Participation in the appropriate specialty on-call roster and other on-call rosters as required and requested.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>May be invited for consultation on patients admitted (or being treated) by another practitioner.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>May sign out or authorise reports on diagnostic investigations requested by another practitioner.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatients</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>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedural</td>
<td>May open an operating theatre or a day procedure unit.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>May access patients for the purpose of teaching.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>May participate in research projects or clinical trials.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐ Yes</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Scope of Clinical Practice Requiring Specific Credentialing**

This section describes procedures or practices which require specific credentialing for safe and effective performance, but which are within the practice of Infectious Diseases. 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>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>No areas of practice or procedures requiring specific credentialing were identified for Infectious Diseases Physicians.</td>
<td>No standards are specified.</td>
<td>No standards are specified.</td>
<td>No standards are specified.</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 will be a free text field, no list created. This section is for areas of practice outside the range of Infectious Diseases 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.

Emergency Practice

In an emergency and where it is not possible to obtain consent, any health professional, including a registered medical practitioner, may provide any treatment immediately necessary to save the life of a patient or prevent serious injury to a patient’s health, whether or not such treatment is within their approved clinical privileges. Whether to provide treatment outside of approved clinical privileges in an emergency should involve consideration of whether there are any better means of proceeding within the time available.

Exclusions

This will be a free text field. This section will list clinical work within the normal and customary practice of Infectious Diseases, which may not be conducted by the practitioner.

Areas of Practice Excluded from SoCP

[ ] list here any clinical work that may not be undertaken by the practitioner, including temporary restrictions

Time frame for review (if exclusion is temporary)

[ ] specify time frame if applicable

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):

Start Date  DD/MM/YYYY

Finish Date  DD/MM/YYYY