National Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (AMP) Physiotherapy Framework

Background to AMP

August 2019
Why is the APA developing a National Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (AMP) Physiotherapy Framework?

To enhance **safe and effective** care for **patients** receiving Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice Physiotherapy.

**THROUGH:**
Creating a recognisable, reproducible and nationally transferable training and assessment framework for AMP credentialing.

Simply put, just as you are comfortable a registered physiotherapist has met the APC standards of practice, we hope, if a physio has competed the APA National AMP Competency Pathway, you will feel confident they have met the minimum performance standard of AMP in their clinical setting.
But, what is advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice?

“A role that is within the currently recognised scope of practice for that profession, but that through custom and practice has been performed by other professions.

The advanced role may require additional training, as well as significant professional experience and competency development.”

! AKA: expanded scope roles, extended scope roles, emergency physiotherapy practitioners

What does advanced musculoskeletal practice look like?

AMP physiotherapists work is a variety of clinical settings and may perform tasks such as:

- Fast track patients for surgery in orthopaedics or neurosurgical clinics
- Remove patients from surgical waiting lists
- Order and interpret medical imagining tests
- Refer directly to specialist medial practitioners
- Relocate dislocations and fractures in emergency
- Order and interpret pathology tests
- Perform post-surgical follow-up
- Provide a consultant level opinion to referring medical practitioners

However, it is the advanced **clinical reasoning** underpinning these tasks and the autonomy that they may be performed that represents **advanced practice**.
What does a National framework mean for the workforce?

An AMP who has completed the pathway here can move here and have their skills and competence recognised.

Patients and Healthcare providers in both places can be confident they are receiving safe and effective care.
How was the framework developed?

The APA framework was adapted from that developed by the Victorian DHHS and endorsed by Health Workforce Australia.
How was the Framework developed?

**STAGE 1**
VICTORIAN STATE-WIDE SURVEY & FOCUS GROUPS*  
- 10 Victorian health service  
- 20+ physios  
- Vic DHHS rep  
- Qualitative analysis – key themes  
- Conceptual model developed

**STAGE 2**
LITERATURE REVIEW CONDUCTED  
- Suckley, 2012  
- NPS competency framework  
- HWA capability resource  
- Nursing competency standards

**STAGE 3**
SMALL WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED  
- Physio leads HWA ED project & HWA physio advisor  
- Developed competency standard for ED  
- Based on Monash Health Competency Framework

**STAGE 4**
CONSULTATION & IMPLEMENTATION  
- Professional bodies  
- Key Stakeholders  
- Implementation sites  
- HWA ED project (5 sites)

**STAGE 5**
EVALUATION & EXPANSION  
- Formal evaluation: HWA medical & nursing advisors, Uni of Wollongong independent evaluators, physios involved in HWA  
- Post successful implementation Framework was expanded into other adv prac OP service (Vic DHHS funded project)  
- Peer reviewed journal publications*

**STAGE 6**
- Adaptation for the APA by members of AMP Panel  
- This includes a representative from each State & Territory, a representative from the APA College of Physiotherapists & APA Staff  
- Feedback sought from key stakeholders  

*ethics approval granted  
DHHS = Department of health & human services, ED=Emergency Department, HWA = Health Workforce Australia, NPS=National Prescribing Service, OP=outpatients  
What does the APA AMP Standard look like?

THERE ARE TWO PARTS OF THE STANDARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core components which are common to all areas of AMP</th>
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<td>Professional behaviours</td>
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<th>And five elective components that address specific areas of practice</th>
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It is important to note the APA AMP Standard does not replace the APC standards of practice, instead, it supplements them and describes specific standards for Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice.
The Standard

Each component has a number of **elements** of practice underpinning it.
### How the elements appear in the standard

**Elements** are the overarching, essential skills required of an AMP Physios

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<th>Related APA coding</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE CUES</th>
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• Refrain from assessment, decision making, treatment and procedures outside scope |
| | C1.2 Work towards the full extent of the role | 1.1.1 | |
| C2. Display accountability | C1.3 Demonstrate responsibility for own actions, as it applies to the practice context | 7.2.1 | • Identify the additional responsibilities resulting from working in advanced practice roles  
• Identify the impact own decision making has on patient outcomes and act to minimise risks |
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Performance criteria specify the expected level of performance required under each element. These are set standards common to all roles.
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Performance cues are examples of what behaviours of a candidate in your setting that demonstrates performance against the criteria. They can be populated be a facility to meet the needs of their organisation.
What is next for the Framework?

We are now asking you to review the Standard document and provide feedback.

We welcome your feedback as it will help build support, interest and inform the AMP plans for **future engagement** around **implementing** the Standard of competency within a practice Framework.