

## Guideline: Scope of Clinical Practice Wording

### Overview

- It is important that the correct phrase is used to detail a practitioner's scope of clinical practice (SoCP).
- The phrase should describe what the practitioner can do, **not** the practitioner's title or qualifications.
- Grammatically, use the abstract noun rather than the concrete noun.<sup>1</sup>

### Examples

Practitioner/Qualification	SoCP
General Practitioner	General Practice
Surgeon	Surgery
Dentist	Dentistry
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Anaesthetist	Anaesthetics or Anaesthesia
Cardiologist	Cardiology
Radiologist	Diagnostic Radiology
Nephrologist	Nephrology
Otolaryngologist (ENT Surgeon)	Otolaryngology (ENT Surgery)
Paediatrician	Paediatrics and Child Health
Physician	General Medicine
Emergency Medicine Physician	Emergency Medicine
Psychiatrist	Psychiatry

- If a practitioner's title or qualification ends with the suffix "-ologist", the SoCP phrase is created by changing the suffix to "-ology". For example: *Dermatologist* becomes *Dermatology*.
- A simple test to insert the word "in" before the SoCP, if it makes sense and sounds correct then you have the SoCP worded correctly:
  - SoCP in General Practitioner ✗
  - SoCP in General Practice ✓
  - SoCP in Specialist Surgeon ✗
  - SoCP in Specialist Surgery ✓
- The word 'Specialist' can only be used if the practitioner is registered with AHPRA under that speciality. The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Qld)*, S 115 restricts the use of the title of "specialist" only to those practitioners registered in the speciality.<sup>2</sup>
- If required insert phrases such as 'Specialist', 'Non-Specialist' or 'Supervised' before the SoCP phrase.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cybergrammar.co.uk/word\\_classes\\_nouns.php](http://www.cybergrammar.co.uk/word_classes_nouns.php)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealthPracRNatLaw.pdf>