

# Private practice in the public health sector

## Department of Health Standard

QH-IMP-403-1:2015

### 1. Statement

This Standard identifies the minimum requirements for implementing the “private practice in the public health sector” policy. It also identifies the responsibilities (and audit criteria) of individual positions in relation to these requirements.

### 2. Scope

This standard applies to all employees, contractors and consultants within the Department of Health divisions and business units.

### 3. Requirements

#### 3.1. Agreements

- 3.1.1. All clinicians performing private practice within the Department of Health will have a written agreement or contract schedule between the employer’s approved delegate and the practitioner/entity in respect of private practice activities.
- 3.1.2. Use the standard granted private practice agreement template (Senior Medical Officers) issued by the Department of Health, unless otherwise approved by the Director-General
- 3.1.3. Use the standard granted private practice schedule template (Visiting Medical Officers) issued by the Department of Health, unless otherwise approved by the Director-General
- 3.1.4. Ensure Licensed Private Practice arrangements are documented.

#### 3.2. Governance

- 3.2.1. Local private practice governance committee (or a committee with adequate terms of reference) are to be established to oversee the administration and sustainability of private practice arrangements operating within their service.

#### 3.3. Management

- 3.3.1. Comply with the Private practice in the Queensland public health sector framework
- 3.3.2. Conduct performance reviews of private practice activities at least annually

- 3.3.3. Ensure all clinicians and support staff complete training and other education and training activities appropriate to their roles and responsibilities regarding private practice
- 3.3.4. Ensure fees are charged for granted private practice services in accordance with the Queensland Health Fees and Charges Register.

## 4. Legislation

- *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 (QLD)*

## 5. Supporting documents

- Guideline to patient billing practices in the Queensland public health sector
- Health Service Directive – Private practice in the Queensland public health sector
- Health Service Directive – Fees and Charges for Health Care Services
- National Healthcare Agreement 2020
- National Health Reform Agreement 2020-25
- Private practice in the Queensland public health sector framework
- Queensland Health – Fees and Charges Register

## 6. Definitions

Term	Definition
Clinician	An individual who provides diagnosis, or treatment, as a professional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) medical practitioner</li> <li>b) nurse</li> <li>c) allied health practitioner; or,</li> <li>d) Health practitioner not covered by paragraph a), b) or c) (National Health Reform Act 2011).</li> </ul>
Department of Health	The Department of Health includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division</li> <li>• Clinical Excellence Queensland</li> <li>• Corporate Services Division</li> <li>• eHealth Queensland</li> <li>• Health Support Queensland</li> <li>• Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division</li> <li>• Prevention Division</li> <li>• Strategy, Policy and Planning Division</li> <li>• Office of the Director-General</li> </ul>

Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any successor agency of those listed above however so named.</li> </ul>
Granted Private Practice	A limited right to provide professional services to private patients on the terms of a Senior Medical Officer's Granted Private Practice Agreement or on the terms of Schedule 3 of a Visiting Medical Officer's Employment Contract.
Medical officer/practitioner	A medical practitioner who is registered with the Medical Board of Australia under the Health Practitioner Registration National Law Act 2009.
Medical services	Any of the medical services set out in Schedule 1 of the Health Insurance Act 1973.
Private patient	A person who could receive treatment free of charge under the National Health Reform Agreement 2020-25 but who has elected to be treated privately in the public system, or a person who agrees to be a fee paying patient of the medical officer and makes this election on the basis of informed financial consent.
Private practice	Any contractual arrangement between the Department of Health or a HHS and clinical staff with these features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The medical treatment of a patient who has elected to be a private patient in respect to informed financial consent</li> <li>Clinical staff treating the private patient uses their Medicare Provider Number to facilitate billing where applicable</li> </ul>
Public patient	In relation to a hospital, means a person in respect of whom the hospital provides comprehensive care, including all necessary medical, nursing and diagnostic services and, if they are available at the hospital, dental and paramedical services, by means of its own staff or by other agreed arrangements (Health Insurance Act 1973).
Queensland Health	The accumulative body of the Department of Health, support agencies and HHSs.
Scope of clinical practice	The extent of an individual practitioner's approved clinical practice within a particular organisation based on the individual's credentials, competence, performance and professional suitability and the needs and capability of the organisation to support the practitioner's scope of clinical practice.

## Version Control

Version	Date	Comments
1	25 February 2014	New policy developed in consultation with Health Systems Support Agency in line with Health Service Directive – Private practice in the Queensland public health sector.
2	16 October 2015	Update of current policy reflecting changes to the employment arrangements for medical officers.
3	16 September 2020	Update of current policy/standard reflecting changes to the Health Service Directive – Private practice in the Queensland public health sector.