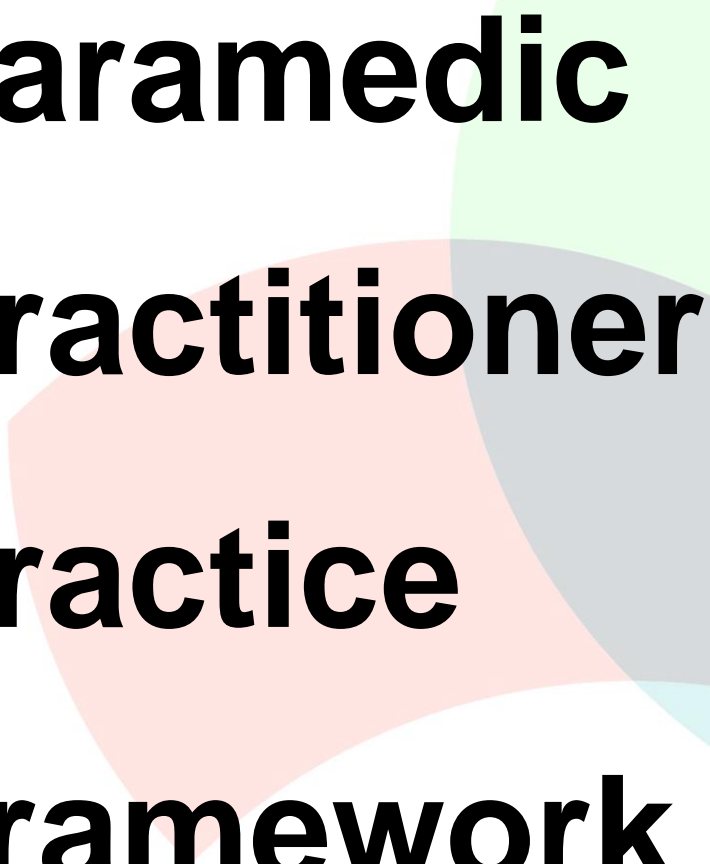




Australian Institute of

**Paramedic
Practitioners**



**Paramedic
Practitioner
Practice
Framework**



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Paramedic Practitioner Practice Framework

Introduction

Paramedicine evolved from the discipline of medicine. As paramedicine emerges out of its pre-hospital silo and integrates more broadly into healthcare systems, paramedicine once again looks to collaborate with medicine. It is for this reason that the Australian Institute of Paramedic Practitioners (AIPP) has established this Paramedic Practitioner Practice Framework where we clearly articulate paramedic integration and articulation into primary healthcare. The Paramedic Practitioner is the highest clinical tier in the evolution for paramedic integration in primary healthcare.

Paramedics are primarily educated to respond to medical emergencies. In that context they assess, diagnose and initiate treatment, for patients in a community setting. Paramedic Practitioners build upon this existing knowledge, skill and experience and have completed additional primary healthcare education at Master's level (or an AIPP approved equivalent). This additional education creates a clinician who can execute advanced assessments, complex clinical reasoning, evidence-based decision making and advanced care planning.

Integral to the Paramedic Practitioner model is a nuanced mix of clinical autonomy and collaboration. Essential to practice is knowledge of limitations, clinical support, professional integrity, reflective practice, and continual professional development. These essential professional capabilities result in a clinician that is committed to patient centred, safe and collaborative healthcare.

This Paramedic Practitioner Practice Framework has been developed to describe a range of capabilities that Paramedic Practitioners are capable of and adhere to. The Framework sets standards for the knowledge, skills and professional attributes required to be a Paramedic Practitioner.

The Framework

The Australian Institute of Paramedic Practitioners has divided the Framework into four elements:

- **Element 1.** Performs accurate clinical assessment and diagnosis
- **Element 2.** Develops care plans within a person-centred approach
- **Element 3.** Prescribes and provides appropriate patient care
- **Element 4.** Evaluates own practice, promotes the profession, and strives to improve patient care

The framework should be reference source for a range of individuals and agencies, including paramedics, health professionals, educators, government, policy makers, employers, regulatory authorities, and the community.

Element 1. Performs accurate clinical assessment and diagnosis

Paramedic Practitioners will:

- Have an overarching understanding of established and evolving biological, psychological, sociological, epidemiological, environmental, and behavioural sciences.
- Possess the ability to listen and communicate clearly, effectively and in a cultural appropriate manner with patients, their family/carers, and other health professionals.
- Elicit an accurate and organised patient history, including current and past problems, family, social, occupational, situational and lifestyle features, from the patient, and other sources.
- Identify gaps in health literacy and cultural misinterpretations and adjusts communication methods to promote rapport and to ensure clinician and patient understanding.
- Conduct comprehensive and focused clinical examinations to obtain appropriate and accurate objective data to inform clinical reasoning and differential diagnosis.
- Conduct focused and relevant assessments that yield appropriate and accurate data that informs differential, provisional and final diagnosis.
- Select and can justify pathology and imaging referrals and does so with patient consent and open disclosure about the costs, benefits, and risk.
- Consider the impact of comorbidities, including the effects of co-existing pathologies and prior treatments.
- Synthesise all aspects of the patient's history, clinical examinations and assessments to make an evidenced based diagnosis.
- Practice patient centred healthcare when performing clinical examinations, assessments and developing healthcare plans.
- Within professional practice capabilities, independently identifies and justifies relevant careplans.
- Consult with other health professionals as required.

Element 2. Develops care plans within a person-centred approach

Paramedic Practitioners will:

- Mitigate against bias, heuristics and uses evidence to create a care plan.
- Develop culturally appropriate and individualised care plan and communicates this effectively to the patient and carers.
- Openly discusses care planning and responds to patients' and family/carers' questions, concerns, and preferences.
- Identifies gaps in health literacy, takes time and adjusts communication methods to clarify patient understanding and incorporate their preferences into care planning.
- Involve patients and family/carers' in decision making and care planning, including communicating risk and benefits of care plans, enabling them to make fully informed choice(s).
- Respect and promote dignity of risk and the right of the patient to make informed decisions about their health/illness.
- Consider legal and bio-ethical principles when discussing care plans.
- Collaborates effectively with other health professionals to review care plans and to make and accept referrals as appropriate.
- Advocates for improved access to healthcare, the wider healthcare system and supports policy decisions that affect health and quality of life.

Element 3. Prescribes and provides appropriate patient care

Paramedic Practitioners will:

- Adhere to the prescribing standards specified by [National Prescribing Competency Frameworks](#).
- Consider the patients' unique biopsychosocial context and their capacity to access and adhere to a treatment plan and medication regime.
- Apply information gathering, clinical reasoning, communication, and collaborative decision making and review to conduct tests and continue or adjust care plans.
- Evaluate patients' health literacy and where necessary provides culturally appropriate information to achieve consensus and understanding.
- Apply patient centred and evidenced based principles when ordering tests and prescribing medication.
- Collaborate effectively with the patients' principal healthcare provider and identifies and compliments other health care plans.
- Use valid and reliable information technology support tools when ordering tests and prescribing medications.
- Evaluate the risks and benefits of tests and medications.
- Consider both non-pharmacological and pharmacological treatment options.
- Prescribe and orders tests within professional practice capabilities, professional and legislative boundaries and refers when necessary.
- Disclose the details of adverse or near miss events to the person receiving care and other health professionals.
- Mitigate harm and reports adverse or near miss events to appropriate authorities.
- Via continuing professional development, maintains and develops currency about the use of tests and medications.

Element 4. Evaluates own practice, promotes the profession, and strives to improve patient care

Paramedic Practitioners will:

- Recognise the limits of own expertise and involve other professionals as needed to contribute to patient care and self-development.
- Self-evaluate own professional practice and demonstrate lifelong learning behaviours.
- Work with other health providers to mutually review evidence for expansion to Paramedic Practitioner service where it is believed that such an expansion will improve access to quality and cost-effective health care for specific populations.
- Thoughtfully critiques and collaboratively influences a range of health care policy and practice through leadership and active participation in the workplace and professional organisations.
- Accept responsibility to protect and advance the health and wellbeing of individual communities and populations.
- Understand the factors that contribute to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori and Pacific peoples, including history, spirituality and relationship to land, diversity of cultures and communities, epidemiology, social and political determinants of health and demonstrate effective and culturally competent communication and care for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori and Pacific peoples.
- Acts as an educator, coach and/or mentor to a range of health colleagues within the healthcare team.
- Provides clinical leadership in the design and evaluation of services for health prevention and promotion.
- Advocates for self, paramedic practitioners, patients and the vulnerable or disadvantaged members of the community.
- Keeps up to date with health advancements through ongoing professional development and self-education.

Glossary:

Attributes:

Are characteristics that underpin competent performance. Refer to the [PBA](#) Professional Capabilities for registered paramedics

Competence:

The combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and abilities that underpin effective and/or superior performance in a profession/occupational area.

Person/people:

In these Standards, person/people are used to refer to those individuals who have entered into a relationship with a Paramedic Practitioner. Person/people encompass patients, clients, consumers and families that fall within the Paramedic Practitioner scope and context of practice.

Prescribing:

Is defined as the steps of information gathering, clinical decision making, communication and evaluation which results in the initiation, continuation or cessation of a medicine.

Professional Practice:

Key generic examples of competent performance. They are neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. They assist the assessor when using their professional judgement in assessing paramedic practitioner practice. They further assist curriculum development.

Scope of practice:

The scope of paramedicine practice is that in which paramedics are educated, competent to perform and permitted by law. The actual scope of practice of individual practitioners is influenced by the settings in which they practise, the health needs of people, the level of competence and confidence of the paramedic and the policy requirements of the service provider.

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