



## **SWEP Lymphoedema Garment Prescriber Registration and Credentialing Framework<sup>1</sup>**

The State-Wide Equipment Program (SWEP) is committed to the appropriate assessment and prescription of Lymphoedema Garment by suitably qualified and skilled prescribers.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of registration and credentialing for SWEP prescribers are:

- Accurate and client-appropriate prescription
- Recognition of advanced prescriber knowledge and skills
- Supported and stream-lined administrative processes
- Prescriber accountability
- Capacity to communicate with all prescribers

### **Interaction between Lymphoedema Garments and the client**

SWEP is keenly aware of the knowledge base of the current prescribers, and acknowledges within the registration and credentialing framework the complex interaction between the client, their garment, and their support person/s. It is understood that the system must take into account an appreciation of garment complexity, of client characteristics which impact complexity, and the necessity for higher level assessment skills as all these elements interact.

Lymphoedema Garments are sub-categorised by their complexity and, recognising that even basic garments may require higher level assessment when being fitted to highly complex clients, relevant client characteristics impacting assessment outcomes (Appendix 1) are brought into consideration.

The final product is a matrix which supports clients, clinicians and administrative staff in knowing that the right health professional is prescribing the right garment.

### **Registration and Credentialing**

Clinician knowledge and experience has been characterised by division to “Green”, “Amber” and “Red” prescribers. In order to prescribe Lymphoedema Garments subsidised by SWEP, prescribers must be registered with AHPRA as either a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist or a Division 1 nurse (consideration of other disciplines is in process, but currently AHPRA registration is considered the best minimum protection for clients)

Green prescribers of Lymphoedema Garments have undertaken an Australian Lymphoedema Association (ALA) endorsed lymphoedema course, and have less than 1

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<sup>1</sup> Developed with the assistance of the SWEP Lymphoedema Garment Clinical Advisory Group February 2017

years' experience prescribing. Those clinicians designated as Green prescribers are outlined in Appendix 2.

Amber and Red prescribers are those recognised by SWEP as having higher levels of skill and experience in Lymphoedema Garment prescription. Once they gain higher level recognition, they are "credentialed" to prescribe more complex garments, and/or for more complex clients.

Amber prescribers will have at least 1 years' experience prescribing Lymphoedema Garments AND have attended at least 2 supplier measurement courses (nb. A general measurement course is under consideration). Amber prescribers can prescribe for clients with less than 2 of the characteristics outlined in Appendix 1, and can validate scripts by Green prescribers for Amber clients.

Red prescribers will have at least 5 years' experience prescribing Lymphoedema Garments and have attended an advanced (or Level 2) ALA endorsed lymphoedema course. Red prescribers can prescribe any level of Lymphoedema Garment for any client. They can also validate scripts for Red garments or Red clients when prescribed by Green or Amber prescribers.

SWEP respects the integrity of the health professionals who apply for registration and/or credentialing with SWEP, but will require proof of qualifications and attendance at professional development sessions.

### **Prescriber support**

SWEP is aware that clinicians should not have a greater administrative burden to prescribe Lymphoedema Garments for their clients than is currently the case, and in some instances may need support to ensure all required elements of an assessment have been taken into account when prescribing.

SWEP prescribers will be supported with new, more streamlined prescription forms. A prescriber manual will be developed to assist prescribers to ensure that all elements of assessment required for client-appropriate prescription have been taken into account.

### **Clinical Advisors**

SWEP has contracted a number of subject matter experts and Clinical Advisors to assist in the development of the Registration and Credentialing process, and to provide on-going advice and support to SWEP. SWEP Clinical Advisors can be found on the SWEP web-site.

### **Prescribing above the credentialed level**

Prescribers may prescribe Lymphoedema Garments for clients who are at a more complex level than the level for which the prescriber is credentialed. In these cases, the prescription must be signed off by a SWEP recognised higher level prescriber. This sign-off ensures that all appropriate assessments and client considerations have been covered in the prescription. Validation by a higher level prescriber is intended to ensure appropriate

clinical reasoning and assessment has been undertaken. Validation does not imply that the validating health professional has responsibility for the prescription, nor that they have assessed the client.

If prescribers are in rural or remote areas, or are sole practitioners and cannot access a higher level prescriber to sign off a prescription, SWEP may ask a Clinical Advisor to review the prescription and sign it off if appropriate.

### **Documents/Systems reviewed**

EnableNSW Health Support Services Professional Criteria for Prescribers:

<http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/>

Queensland Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme Prescriber Procedures Manual:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/>

South Australian Government DFC Approved Provider model: <http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/>

Victorian Transport Accident Commission Benefit and Support Service Assessor:

<http://www.tac.vic.gov.au/jsp/content/NavigationController.do?areaID=22&tierID=1&navID=BA2614FA7F0000010104A4B6515D91FF&navLink=null&pageID=1841>

Department of Veterans Affairs RAP National Guidelines:

[http://www.dva.gov.au/service\\_providers/rap/Documents/RAPNationalGuidelines.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/rap/Documents/RAPNationalGuidelines.pdf)

Health Workforce Australia National Competencies Framework:

<http://www.hwa.gov.au/programs/research-and-data/competencies-framework>

New Zealand Ministry of Health Disability Support Services Equipment and Modifications

Competency Framework: <http://disabilityservices.hiirc.org.nz/>

Assist UK Trusted Assessor Project: <http://www.assist-uk.org/>

## **Appendix 1: Schedule of Relevant Client Characteristics**

### ***General Characteristics which impact the prescription***

*Nb. All clients < 18 years of age are considered Red clients as are all clients with Stage 3 oedema and above. Additional characteristics are:*

1. Skin integrity risks or pressure ulcers
2. Presence of skin folds
3. Behaviours of concern
4. Oedema which is unstable or rapidly changing
5. Neurological deficits
6. Arterial deficits
7. Difficulty donning and/or doffing the garment

**Appendix 2: Lymphoedema Garment Matrix**

	<b>GARMENT</b>	<b>CLIENT</b>	<b>PRESCRIBER</b>
<b>GREEN</b>	Non-custom made compression garments	Stage 2a or below oedema  <b>AND/OR</b>  > 18 years of age  <b>AND/OR</b>  Not impacted by any relevant characteristics	AHPRA Registered Nurse (Division 1) <b>OR</b> AHPRA Registered Physiotherapist <b>OR</b> AHPRA Registered Occupational Therapist <b>AND</b> Have attended an ALA endorsed lymphoedema course
<b>AMBER</b>	Custom made compression garments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Knit</li> <li>• Flat knit                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Below knee</li> <li>○ MCP to Axilla (A-G)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Stage 2b or below oedema  <b>AND/OR</b>  > 18 years of age  <b>AND/OR</b>  Impacted by < 2 “Relevant Characteristics”	AHPRA Registered Nurse (Division 1) <b>OR</b> AHPRA Registered Physiotherapist <b>OR</b> AHPRA Registered Occupational Therapist <b>AND</b> Have attended an ALA endorsed lymphoedema course <b>AND</b> Minimum 1 years’ experience in prescribing lymphoedema garments <b>AND</b> Have attended at least 2 supplier measurement courses (nb. A general measurement course is under consideration)

<b>RED</b>	All other flat knit custom made compression garments	<p>Stage 3 or above oedema</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND/OR</b></p> <p>&lt; 18 years of age</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND/OR</b></p> <p>Impacted by 2 or more “Relevant Characteristics”</p>	<p>AHPRA Registered Nurse (Division 1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>AHPRA Registered Physiotherapist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>AHPRA Registered Occupational Therapist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Minimum 5 years’ experience in prescribing lymphoedema garments</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Have attended an advanced ALA endorsed lymphoedema course</p>
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