

## The standard for registration and credentialing (*The Standard*)

### Lymphoedema Therapists

#### Summary

The State-Wide Equipment Program (SWEP) offers eligible Assistive Technology (AT) Practitioners a registration and credentialing process, whereby AT Practitioner credentialing levels specific to an AT category are assigned, according to *The Standard* outlined here.

This standard provides an objective means of structuring, measuring and authorising AT Practitioners to deliver AT solutions.

Based on an assessment of eligibility, experience, training and skill, AT practitioners are assigned a credentialing level that reflects the level of complexity they can safely and effectively address within a specific AT category. SWEP uses a traffic light based colour system to rate AT Practitioner credentialing level progressing from Green to Amber and then Red.

Where SWEP credentialed AT Practitioners also make application for AT items with SWEP, this assigned AT Practitioner credentialing level is integrated into the SWEP online application processes and privileges.

#### Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all AT Practitioners who register and credential with SWEP, as well as those wanting to maintain their credentialed status with SWEP or make applications for AT items through the SWEP online application portal.

#### What does this mean for me?

There are five individual standards that need to be met regardless of your profession, credentialing level or the type of credentialing application you are making. The standards are summarised in the table below.

Standards to be met	
Standard 1.	Threshold credentials for the AT category
Standard 2.	Additional agency/ funding body requirements
Standard 3.	Experience and currency delivering AT solutions in the AT category
Standard 4.	Accrual of AT Practitioner continual professional development (CPD) points
Standard 5.	Participation in audit and review processes

The types of credentialing applications you can make with SWEP are summarized in the table below.

Credentialing application type	Descriptor
Initial (inexperienced AT Practitioner or new graduate)	This applies to an inexperienced AT Practitioner or new graduate clinician, registering and credentialing as a Green AT Practitioner for the first time.

Credentialing application type	Descriptor
Initial (experienced AT Practitioner)	This applies to AT Practitioners with considerable experience implementing AT solutions, prior to their engagement with SWEP. Credentialing level(s) are assigned for the first time based on a skills recognition process.
Add AT category	This applies to AT Practitioners wanting to add an AT category to their existing registration profile. This may happen due to a change in scope of practice, or the completion of training or roles, that allow you to meet additional credentialing requirements.
Upgrade	The process whereby the AT Practitioner applies to have their credentialing level within the SWEP framework upgraded to amber or red in any one or more AT category/ ies.
Re-credential	The process whereby the AT Practitioner applies to maintain their current credentialing level and /or application privileges with SWEP within a five-year cycle. It is a periodic re-evaluation to verify that you continue to meet credentialing standards set by SWEP

The specific standards that apply to your profession and credentialing application type, and further details on the evidence/ documents to be submitted with your application, are outlined in [Table 1 The Standard](#) for your profession or area of practice e.g. Occupational Therapist, Lymphoedema Therapist.

For further details on CPD activity types and rules that relate to your credentialing application refer to the [CPD activity guidelines](#).

Your compliance with this standard may be audited from time to time to ensure adherence. If it is discovered that credentialing levels or access to AT categories has been endorsed by SWEP based on false or unsupported information, privileges afforded by your credentialing level may be reviewed.

### Keeping evidence

You should maintain records that support your credentialing application (particularly your AT Practitioner CPD activity) for five years so it can be provided in the case you get audited. The [CPD summary portfolio](#) can be used to record your CPD evidence.

### Will special consideration be given if I don't meet the standard?

If you believe you possess the appropriate level of skill and competence to provide services in this area of practice, but do not meet the required standards, you can submit a credentialing application through the SWEP Practitioner portal with supporting evidence and we will assess your application on a case by case basis to determine your credentialing level. For example, requesting to move directly from Green to Red or upgrade from Amber to Red with less than 3 years' experience at Amber.

In order to be considered for a special consideration request you must meet the following two requirements

- have evidence of targeted learning and have considerable mileage that includes high complexity across both consumers and assistive technology items/ service provision
- have at least 2.5 years of full time equivalent experience in this area of practice at either Green and/or Amber.

Applications that do not fully meet *The Standard* for your profession or area of practice, will be reviewed by the Chief Allied Health Officer or delegate. Special consideration may be given to assign the requested credentialing level.

### Right of Appeal

Any AT Practitioner may appeal to have decisions made by SWEP reviewed, by contacting the SWEP Chief Allied Health Officer on [swepcaho@bhs.org.au](mailto:swepcaho@bhs.org.au). After an appeal is formally reviewed, the outcome is final. Refer to the [Credentialing appeal application form](#) for further details.

### What happens if I apply but don't meet this standard?

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If you submit a credentialing request and it is deemed that you do not clearly meet the standard, your application will not be endorsed. This will be communicated to you, with opportunity to provide further information if relevant.

### Variations to credentialing level assignment

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There may be specific conditions that impact the eligibility, assignment or revision of credentialing levels, or specific conditions that call for additional monitoring. These will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Chief Allied Health Officer or delegate (in collaboration with partnering agencies where applicable).

This may include but is not limited to;

- when a practitioner has limited AHPRA Registration or where there are conditions/ reprimands/ notations placed on their AHPRA registration
- when it becomes clear after a formal review process that coaching or remedial action is appropriate
- when there are repeated concerns about a Practitioner's adherence to applicable professional standards or codes of conduct/ ethics

### Review

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This standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years.


Last reviewed: May 2020

**Table 1: Lymphoedema Therapists: standard for registration and credentialing**

AT categories which Lymphoedema Therapists are eligible to register in:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compression garments</li> </ul>	
Professions eligible to register in this category:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>• Medical Practitioner</li> <li>• Occupational Therapist</li> <li>• Physiotherapist</li> </ul>	
Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Therapists
1. Threshold credentials for the AT category and credentialing level	Current general AHPRA registration as an Occupational Therapist <b>or</b> Physiotherapist <b>or</b> Registered Nurse <b>or</b> Nurse Practitioner <b>or</b> Medical Practitioner
	<b>with</b> Completion of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) endorsed course (upper and/or lower limb) consistent with role and chosen scope of practice
	<b>No additional threshold credentials for Green</b> Eligible for registration as a Category 1 practitioner with the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA)- National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR). <i>(Amber practitioners must have completed all components of an ALA endorsed level 1 course i.e. upper and lower limb)</i>
	Eligible for registration as a Category 1 practitioner with the Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA)- National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR). <i>(Red practitioners must have completed all components of an ALA endorsed level 1 course i.e. upper and lower limb)</i> <b>and</b> Completion of a Level 2 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent)
2. Additional funding body requirements	Agencies/ funding bodies engaging SWEP to credential AT Practitioners, may request additional specific evidence to be submitted as part of registration and initial credentialing. You will be advised of this as required.
3. Experience and currency delivering AT	<b>Initial registration (inexperienced AT Practitioner including new graduate)</b>
	No specific experience and currency requirements beyond threshold credentials
	<b>Initial registration at amber/red level</b>

Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Therapists
solutions in the AT category	Evidence within the past five years of regular experience providing AT solutions in the AT category, commensurate with the requested AT Practitioner level as it relates to consumer and AT item complexity (Amber at least one year, Red at least 4 years) <b>and</b> demonstrate roles and responsibilities in AT solution provision, commensurate with the requested AT Practitioner level
	<b>Upgrade (to amber)</b>
	At least one year of regular experience providing AT solutions in this AT category (May be demonstrated by making two or more applications via the SWEP portal in this AT category over the past twelve months)
	<b>Upgrade (to red)</b>
	At least three years of regular experience providing AT solutions in this AT category (May be demonstrated by making or validating ten or more applications via the SWEP portal in this AT category over the past three years)
	<b>Re-credentialing (at green)</b>
	No specific experience and currency requirements beyond threshold credentials
	<b>Re-credentialing (at amber or red)</b>
	Regular experience providing AT solutions in the AT category at the relevant credentialed level (May be demonstrated by making or validating ten or more applications via the SWEP portal in the AT category over the past five years)
4. Continual professional development (CPD)	<b>Initial registration (inexperienced AT Practitioner including new graduate)</b>
	No specific CPD requirements
	<b>Initial registration at amber/red level</b>
	Amber: complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb
	Red: Complete Level 2 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent)
	<b>Upgrade (to amber)</b>
If not done previously, complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or	

Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Therapists equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb <b>or</b> Complete Level 2 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) <b>or</b> Submit evidence (including evidence of 30 points of CPD) to support eligibility for registration as a Category 1 practitioner, with Australasian Lymphology Association's (ALA) National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR) (complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb)
	<b>Upgrade (to red)</b> Complete Level 2 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) <b>or</b> If already have completed an ALA endorsed Level 2 course, submit evidence (including evidence of 30 points of CPD) to support eligibility for registration as a Category 1 practitioner with Australasian Lymphology Association's (ALA) National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR) (complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb)
	<b>Re-credentialing (at amber or red)</b> Current registration as a Category 1 practitioner with the Australasian Lymphology Association's (ALA) National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR) <b>or</b> Submit evidence (including evidence of 30 points of CPD) to support eligibility for registration as a Category 1 practitioner, with Australasian Lymphology Association's (ALA) National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR) (complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb)
5. Audit and review	Participate in audit and review processes related to credentialing or applications as determined by SWEP or other agencies/funding bodies.

 **Lymphoedema Therapists: Documentation and evidence to be submitted in support of your credentialing request**  
Access SWEP portal login at: <https://swep.service-now.com/csm>

Initial credentialing (inexperienced AT Practitioner or new graduate)	Initial assignment of AT Practitioner level (experienced)	Upgrade AT Practitioner level	Re-credential at same AT Practitioner level
AHPRA name and registration number supplied <b>and</b>	AHPRA name and registration number supplied <b>and</b>	<a href="#"><u>Credentialing application form</u></a> (all sections including declaration) <b>including</b>	<b>Green ONLY:</b> Complete a declaration confirming that threshold credentials/requirements are still met

evidence of successful completion of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) endorsed course (upper and/or lower limb) which is consistent with your role and chosen scope of practice	<a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (all sections including declaration) <b>including</b> *CV and cover letter <b>and</b> I. Or II. Or III. Or IV.	*Experience and currency statement <b>and</b> II. Or III. Or IV. Or V.	<b>Amber and Red:</b> <a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (sections 1, 2 and declaration) <b>and</b> II. Or III. Or IV. Or V.
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Evidence types and requirements for Lymphoedema therapists

- I. Submit evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed Level 1 course (upper and/or lower limb) (equivalent to 30 CPD points) which is consistent with your role and chosen scope of practice
- II. Submit evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed Level 2 course (or equivalent) (equivalent to 30 CPD points)
- III. Submit evidence of Registration as a Category 1 practitioner, with ALA's National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register
- IV. Submit evidence to support eligibility for registration as a Category 1 practitioner, with Australasian Lymphology Association's (ALA) National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR) (complete full requirements of a Level 1 Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (or equivalent) i.e. upper and lower limb)
- V. If you are relying on CPD activities other than those listed above for your credentialing request, please submit the *Credentialing application form*

\*Please refer to Section 3: [Credentialing application form](#) for details on what to include in your experience and currency statement **OR** CV and cover letter