



**Queensland
Government**
Queensland Health



**IPSWICH & WEST MORETON
DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE**

West Moreton South Burnett Integrated Mental Health Services

Ipswich & West Moreton Division of General Practice

Mental Health Nurse

Credentialing for Practice Program Guide

Disclaimer

This Mental Health Nurse Credentialing Program Guide has been developed primarily to support appropriately qualified nurses to prepare and apply for credentialing. The Guide has been developed collaboratively by West Moreton South Burnett Integrated Mental Health Service and Ipswich & West Moreton Division of General Practice, and was jointly funded by Queensland Health and General Practice Queensland through the Partners in Mind Framework, and the Department of Health & Ageing through the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program. The information in this document was correct as of July 2008.

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Objective of Program

To provide the resources and opportunity for Mental Health Nurses (MHN) who have undertaken the appropriate tertiary study to work towards gaining the Australian College of Mental Health Nurse (ACMHN) credentialing.

Outcome

This will increase the number of MHNs eligible to be engaged under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) and, thereby, increase community access to primary mental health care.

The MHN will achieve credentialing by obtaining the required points for each category as set out by the ACMHN. The relevant activities are listed under the key areas of Continuing Professional Education and Continuing Practice Development.

Criteria

There are several criteria which need to be met for the Mental Health Nurse to be successfully credentialled.

Criteria 1

- Current Registration with the Queensland Nursing Council

Criteria 2

- Recognised specialist/post-graduate qualification in Mental Health nursing

Criteria 3

- Duration of practice in Mental Health
 - Practice may be clinical, educational, academic, management, health administration, research, consultancy or advisory (public or private)
 - Is defined by nature of practice as opposed to whom the nurse works for
 - Must be able to demonstrate primary focus in Mental Health
 - Minimum 3 years FTE (5,472 hours) as Registered Nurse or 12 months FTE (1,824 hours) since obtaining relevant specialist qualifications

Criteria 4

- Recency of practice in Mental Health
 - At least 3 months (456 hours) over the last year, OR
 - At least 6 months (912 hours) over the last 2 years, OR
 - At least 12 months FTE (1,824 hours) over the last 3 years

Criteria 5

- Continuing Professional Education
- Continuing Professional Development

The Mental Health Nurse is required to complete the Evidence-Based Record which can be found on the website of The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (www.acmhn.org) for Continuing Professional Education and Continuing Practice Development activities in the preceding 3 years.

Continuing Professional Education

Code

24.1	Relevant studies at University
24.2	ADMHN education programs
24.3	Presenting papers at conferences, seminars
24.4	Publication/refereed journal
24.5	Relevant studies at TAFE
24.6	Relevant mandatory education/staff development
24.7	Relevant conference, events form other professional bodies
24.8	Relevant education program from other educational agencies
24.9a	Deliver formal lectures
24.9b	Other education
24.10	Relevant curricula/course development
24.10	development
24.11	Convene education program
24.12	College member or fellow
24.13	Relevant journal subscriptions
24.14	Private/self-directed study
24.15	Other CPE activity

Continuing Practice Development

Code

25.1	Clinical supervision
25.2	Contribution to profession
25.3	College activities
25.4	Conducting clinical research/implementing EBP
25.5	Clinical practice
25.6	Structured quality improvement
25.7	Structured clinical presentations
25.8	Working committees
25.9	Consumer, carer partnerships
25.10	NGO partnerships
25.11	Relevant projects and consultancy
25.12	Policy/service development
25.13	Relevant community development, public consultation
25.14	Structured mental health promotion
25.15	Structured peer review groups of Meetings
25.16	Performance 24.15
25.17	Clinical supervision of others
25.18	Membership of other relevant bodies
25.19	Other relevant CPD activity

Criteria 6

Upon completion of the evidence-based Activities as outlined in Criteria 5, the Mental Health Nurse then applies to the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses for credentialing.

- The application must be supported by two (2) written references as per Guidelines for Referees.
- Supporting documentation must be certified copies as per guidelines.
- The application is processed administratively by ACMHN and peer reviewed by a Credentialed Mental Health Nurse approved by the Board of Credentialing.
- Applications take approximately 6-8 weeks to process and review, and successful applicants will hold a certificate which is valid for 3 years.

Expected Outcomes for the Nurse

- The Mental Health Nurse will obtain a target of at least 100 points under each activity outlined under the heading of Continuing Professional Education and Continuing Practice Development.
- The Mental Health Nurse will be eligible to apply for credentialing with The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.
- Once credentialed, the Mental Health Nurse is eligible to practice under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program.
- Once credentialed, the Mental Health Nurse is eligible to apply for a Medicare Provider Number under the current Medicare criteria.

Expected Outcomes of Program

- The Mental Health Nurse will achieve the required target for each activity heading of Continuing Professional Education and Continuing Practice Development.
- The Mental Health Nurse will be eligible to apply for credentialing with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.
- Once credentialed, the Mental Health Nurse will be eligible to practice under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program.

Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program

It is a requirement of the Department of Health & Ageing (DoHA) as outlined in the Mental Health Nursing Incentive Program Guidelines 1888.27.04.2007 that all Mental Health Nurses employed to provide clinical services in General Practice should be credentialed by December 2008 (refer to <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/mental-health.jsp#MHNIP>).

This Credentialing summary has been developed to guide Mental Health Nurses employed at West Moreton South Burnett Integrated Mental Health Service through the Credentialing Program as outlined by The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (refer to <http://www.acmhn.org/>).

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses provides the framework to guide the Mental Health Nurse through the activities necessary for application to be credentialed through the College. The required activities are listed under the headings of Continuing Professional Education and Continuing Practice Development. The Mental Health Nurse can apply for credentialing on completion of relevant activities and obtaining the target points.