

## The standard for registration and credentialing (*The Standard*) Lymphoedema Practitioner (compression garments)

### 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 Practitioner.

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.

Special consideration application will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. 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@gh.org.au](mailto:swepcaho@gh.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

### What happens if there is a change to my registration or clinical practice?

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In the event that conditions, reprimands or restrictions are placed on your registration, clinical practice or professional association membership, you must advise the Chief Allied Health Officer immediately in writing at [swepcaho@gh.org.au](mailto:swepcaho@gh.org.au)

### 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: Dec 2021

**Table 1: Lymphoedema Practitioners (compression garments): standard for registration and credentialing**

AT categories which Lymphoedema Practitioners are eligible to register in:

- Compression garments (for primary, secondary or sub-clinical lymphoedema)

Professions eligible to register in this category:

**Established professions in this category for SWEP**

- Registered Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner
- Medical Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist

**Emerging eligible practitioners in this category** - as determined by Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) (i.e., includes practitioners from professions that were not previously eligible for SWEP registration and credentialing)

**Standards to be met**

**Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Practitioners**

1. Threshold credentials for the AT category and credentialing level

**Established professions in this category for SWEP**

(i.e., professions previously eligible for SWEP registration and credentialing, before Jan 2022)

Current general AHPRA registration as an Occupational Therapist

**or** Physiotherapist

**or** Registered Nurse

**or** Nurse Practitioner

**or** Medical Practitioner

**with**

with completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) endorsed course (consistent with the scope of practice of your primary health profession, your role and chosen scope of practice)

**Emerging eligible practitioners in this category**

(i.e., includes practitioners from professions that were not previously eligible for SWEP registration and credentialing, before Jan 2022)

ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register, working within the scope of practice of their primary health profession(s) and the competencies achieved

**Additional eligibility requirements for meeting credentialing in this AT category**

**No additional threshold credentials for Green**

At least one full year as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (excluding any years of absence approved by ALA) and with current active accreditation.

**and**

*working within the scope of practice of their primary health profession(s) and the competencies achieved through undertaking accredited lymphoedema training*

Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Practitioners	
	<p>through undertaking accredited lymphoedema training</p> <p><b>with</b></p> <p>Current general AHPRA registration (where applicable) or Professional Association membership (where applicable and as determined by ALA)</p>	<p>At least four full years as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the National Lymphoedema Practitioner Register (excluding any years of absence approved by ALA) and with current active accreditation</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p><i>working within the scope of practice of their primary health profession(s) and the competencies achieved through undertaking accredited lymphoedema training</i></p>
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 solutions in the AT category	<b>Initial registration (inexperienced AT Practitioner including new graduate)</b>	
	No specific experience and currency requirements beyond threshold credentials	
	<b>Initial registration- Amber or Red</b>	
	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)	
	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>*Amber: experience must specifically relate to solutions that include the measure and fit of ‘made to measure’ round or flat knit garments, and/ or adjustable wrap systems, for consumers with increasing complexity.</p> <p>*Red: experience must specifically relate to solutions that include the measure and fit of ‘made to measure’ flat knit garments, and/ or adjustable wrap systems for consumers with complex needs.</p> </div>	
	<p><b>and</b></p> <p>demonstrate# roles and responsibilities in AT solution provision, commensurate with the requested AT Practitioner level</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>#Red: for example, you may supervise the work of others and/or provide leadership through your technical or expert skills</p> </div>	
<b>Upgrade - to Amber</b>		
<p>At least one year of regular experience* providing AT solutions in this AT category</p> <p>(May be demonstrated by making two or more applications via the SWEP portal in this AT category over the past twelve months)</p>		
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>*Experience must specifically relate to the measure and fit of compression garments for lymphoedema, rather than lymphoedema practice in general</p> </div>		
<b>Upgrade - to Red</b>		

Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Practitioners					
	<p>At least three years of regular experience* providing AT solutions in this AT category</p> <p style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;">*Experience must specifically relate to solutions that include the measure and fit of ‘made to measure’ flat knit garments, and/ or ‘made to measure’ adjustable wrap systems for consumers with complex needs, rather than lymphoedema practice in general</p> <p>(May be demonstrated by making or validating ten or more applications via the SWEPP portal in this AT category over the past three years)</p> <p><b>Re-credentialing - at Green</b></p> <p>No specific experience and currency requirements beyond threshold credentials</p> <p><b>Re-credentialing - at Amber or Red</b></p> <p>Regular experience* providing AT solutions in the AT category <u>at the relevant credentialed level</u></p> <p>(May be demonstrated by making or validating ten or more applications via the SWEPP portal in the AT category over the past five years)</p> <p style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;">*Amber: experience must specifically relate to solutions that include the measure and fit of ‘made to measure’ round or flat knit garments, and/ or adjustable wrap systems, for consumers with increasing complexity. *Red: experience must specifically relate to solutions that include the measure and fit of made to measure flat knit garments, and/ or ‘made to measure’ adjustable wrap systems for consumers with complex needs.</p>					
4. Continual professional development (CPD)	<p><b>Initial registration and recredential – at Green</b></p> <p>No specific requirements for Green, however it is assumed that AT Practitioners participate in activities that contribute directly to maintaining and improving competence in the scope and level of AT practice as part of their professional development activities</p> <p><b>Initial credentialing, upgrade, or re-credentialing - Amber or Red</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="495 1018 2130 1433"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="495 1018 1525 1061"><b>Established professions in this category for SWEPP</b></th> <th data-bbox="1525 1018 2130 1061"><b>Emerging eligible practitioners in this category</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="495 1061 1525 1433"> Maintain current active status as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR  <b>or</b>  Accrue at least 30 SWEPP Practitioner CPD points over the past 5 years (related to Lymphoedema practice) <b>with</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a <u>minimum of 15 Category 1 CPD points that are directly related to the measure and fit of compression garments</u> (for Lymphoedema) and up to 15 Category 2 CPD points can be of a more general nature and related to Lymphoedema practice in general (refer to <a href="#">CPD activity guidelines</a> for details</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1525 1061 2130 1433"> Maintain current active status as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Established professions in this category for SWEPP</b>	<b>Emerging eligible practitioners in this category</b>	Maintain current active status as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR <b>or</b> Accrue at least 30 SWEPP Practitioner CPD points over the past 5 years (related to Lymphoedema practice) <b>with</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a <u>minimum of 15 Category 1 CPD points that are directly related to the measure and fit of compression garments</u> (for Lymphoedema) and up to 15 Category 2 CPD points can be of a more general nature and related to Lymphoedema practice in general (refer to <a href="#">CPD activity guidelines</a> for details</li> </ul>	Maintain current active status as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR
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Standards to be met	Minimum requirements of the standard for Lymphoedema Practitioners on the CPD accrual rules)
	<b>and</b> Participate in activities* that contribute directly to maintaining and improving competence in the scope and level of AT practice <b>and</b> Maintain a portfolio that documents all AT Practitioner CPD points undertaken, including documentary evidence  *CPD must include activities that are specifically related to the measure and fit of compression garments / adjustable wrap systems for lymphoedema, rather than lymphoedema practice in general
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 Practitioners: Documentation and evidence to be submitted in support of your credentialing request

Access SWEP portal login at: <https://swep.service-now.com/csm>

**Established professions** (i.e., professions eligible for SWEP registration and credentialing before Jan 2022; Registered Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner, Medical Practitioner, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist)

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> evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (consistent with the scope of practice of your primary health profession, your role and chosen scope of practice)	AHPRA name and registration number supplied <b>and</b> <a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (all sections including declaration) <b>including</b> *CV and cover letter <b>and</b> evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (consistent with the scope of practice of your primary health profession, your role and chosen scope of practice)	<a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (all sections including declaration) <b>including</b> *Experience and currency statement	<a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (section 1 and declaration)
*Please refer to Section 3: <a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> for details on what must be included in your experience and currency statement <b>OR</b> CV and cover letter. (For Lymphoedema Practitioners, this must include information that specifically relates to the measure and fit of compression garments, rather than lymphoedema practice in general)			



**Emerging eligible practitioners** (i.e., includes practitioners from professions that were not previously eligible for SWEP registration and credentialing before Jan 2022)

Initial credentialing (inexperienced AT Practitioner or new graduate)	Initial assignment of AT Practitioner level (experienced)	Upgrade AT Practitioner level
<p>Provide evidence of having active current ALA Accreditation as a Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (consistent with the scope of practice of your primary health profession, your role and chosen scope of practice)</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>AHPRA name and registration number supplied (where applicable) <b>or</b> evidence of current Professional Association membership (where applicable and as determined by ALA at the time of your accreditation)</p>	<p>AHPRA name and registration number supplied (where applicable)</p> <p><b>or</b></p> <p>evidence of current Professional Association membership (where applicable and as determined by ALA at the time of your accreditation)</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>Provide evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• active current ALA Accreditation as a Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR</li> <li>• evidence of successful completion of an Australasian Lymphology Association endorsed course (consistent with the scope of practice of your primary health profession, your role and chosen scope of practice)</li> <li>• Amber - At least one full year as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR (excluding any years of absence approved by ALA)</li> <li>• Red - At least four full years as an ALA Accredited Lymphoedema Practitioner on the NLPR (excluding any years of absence approved by ALA)</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <p><a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (all sections including declaration)</p> <p><b>including</b> *CV and cover letter</p>	<p><a href="#">Credentialing application form</a> (all sections including declaration)</p> <p><b>including</b></p> <p>*Experience and currency statement</p>

\*Please refer to Section 3: [Credentialing application form](#) for details on what must be included in your experience and currency statement **OR** CV and cover letter. (For Lymphoedema Practitioners this must include information that specifically relates to the measure and fit of compression garments for Lymphoedema, rather than lymphoedema practice in general)