

Title: A long and winding road- advancing practice recognition in australia.

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Abstract:

Background

An Australian definition of advanced practice was first included in the 2010 iteration of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia (the Standards). Since then, development of a formalised practitioner development process from undergraduate and progression to advanced practice has continued. Despite an initial successful pilot, a national program of credentialing of advancing practice was ended in October 2016 citing sustainability issues.

Methods

An Advancing Practice Advisory Board (APAB) provides technical oversight and quality assurance of the evaluation process. The APAB includes representation from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society who brings expertise from their Faculty program.

Results

63 pharmacists have applied for the first round of advancing practice credentialing. Practice portfolios are evaluated against the advanced practice enabling competencies within the Standards. To ensure a robust and defensible process for evaluation, training of advancing practice evaluators includes a focus on giving feedback that is relevant to the practitioner's development needs.

Conclusion

For both practitioner and profession, the path of advancing practice may not always be a straight road. But the journey is essential if pharmacists are to maintain and grow their role in the healthcare team.