



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

Understanding your scope of practice at advanced levels of practice

Monday 29 September 2025, 1.30-2.30pm

Wednesday 22 October 2025, 10-11am



Information about the webinar



A copy of the slides will be shared after the session



Microphones and cameras are turned off to manage a large room

Q&A

Please post questions in the Q&A as we go (rather than use the 'raise hand' function). We have a small team of people moderating and responding to questions. Questions can be posted anonymously but will be answered publicly. Ensure all questions maintain confidentiality.

Voting

When prompted, please use your mobile phone to scan the QR code to vote. Voting is anonymous. A summary of the findings will be shared on completion of the webinar series in November.

Slides

We're using PowerPoint Live so you can navigate the slides just for yourself and then come back to the presenter. You can also click on the embedded links which will take you to other resources.

Reactions

Please use the reaction buttons including when prompted

Certificates

There are no certificates of participation. If you would like to include this session as CPD activity, please consider completing a short reflective piece afterwards.

Agenda

- ✓ Welcome and introductions
- ✓ An overview of the role of the regulators
- ✓ Today's session: the purpose, aims and goals
- ✓ Clarifying key concepts – and hearing from you
- ✓ Scope of practice – what the standards say and hearing from you
- ✓ Effective governance to maintain and appropriately grow your scope of practice – and hearing from you
- ✓ Signposting to resources for appropriate personalisation of your scope of practice
- ✓ Actions for the next fortnight
- ✓ Evaluation, ideas for ongoing resources, next steps



Remit of GOsC and HCPC as healthcare regulators

Protection of the public

Objectives under the Health Professions Order 2001 and Osteopaths Act 1993:

- Protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of the public
- Promote and maintain public confidence in the professions we regulate
- Promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for the professions we regulate



Fair

Being honest, open and transparent



Compassionate

Treating people with respect, empathy and care



Inclusive

Collaborating with others and championing diversity



Enterprising

Seeking opportunities to be creative and foster innovation to improve our performance



Collaborative

We work with our stakeholders to ensure patients and osteopaths are at the centre of our approach to regulation



Influential

We seek to support and develop those we work with to enhance public protection



Respectful

We seek to hear, understand and consider the views of the people with whom we engage



Evidence-informed

We use a range of evidence to guide our work to ensure the best outcomes for our patients and the public

What we do as regulators

Take action to protect
the public, including
via fitness to practise

Quality assure
education and training
programmes

Maintain and develop
standards for practice, conduct
and continuing professional
development

Maintain and publish a
register of those allowed to
practise in the UK

Source



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

My scope of practice so far...



This session will:

- Provide an overview of the standards relating to scope of practice to support you as an experienced practitioner
- Critically explore the key concepts and terms used within the UK context linked to advancing levels of practice (and link to relevant resources)
- Provide space for you to consider your own responses to scope of practice including in relation to CPD activities
- Invite you to identify a small action to be completed within the next two weeks



Clarifying key concepts

- Service user
- Levels of practice / Advanced levels of practice / Experienced practitioner
- Autonomous practitioner
- Scope optimisation
- Advanced practice
- Four pillars of practice
- Specialist verses generalist

Statement on Advanced Practice from the Chief Allied Health Professions Officers in each of the four UK countries:

Whatever the specific profession, role and context, all advanced practice AHPs will have the necessary advanced-level capabilities across all four pillars of practice needed to provide safe, high quality, holistic care with people, their families and carers.

Other reading

[Updates on Advanced Practice | The HCPC](#)



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

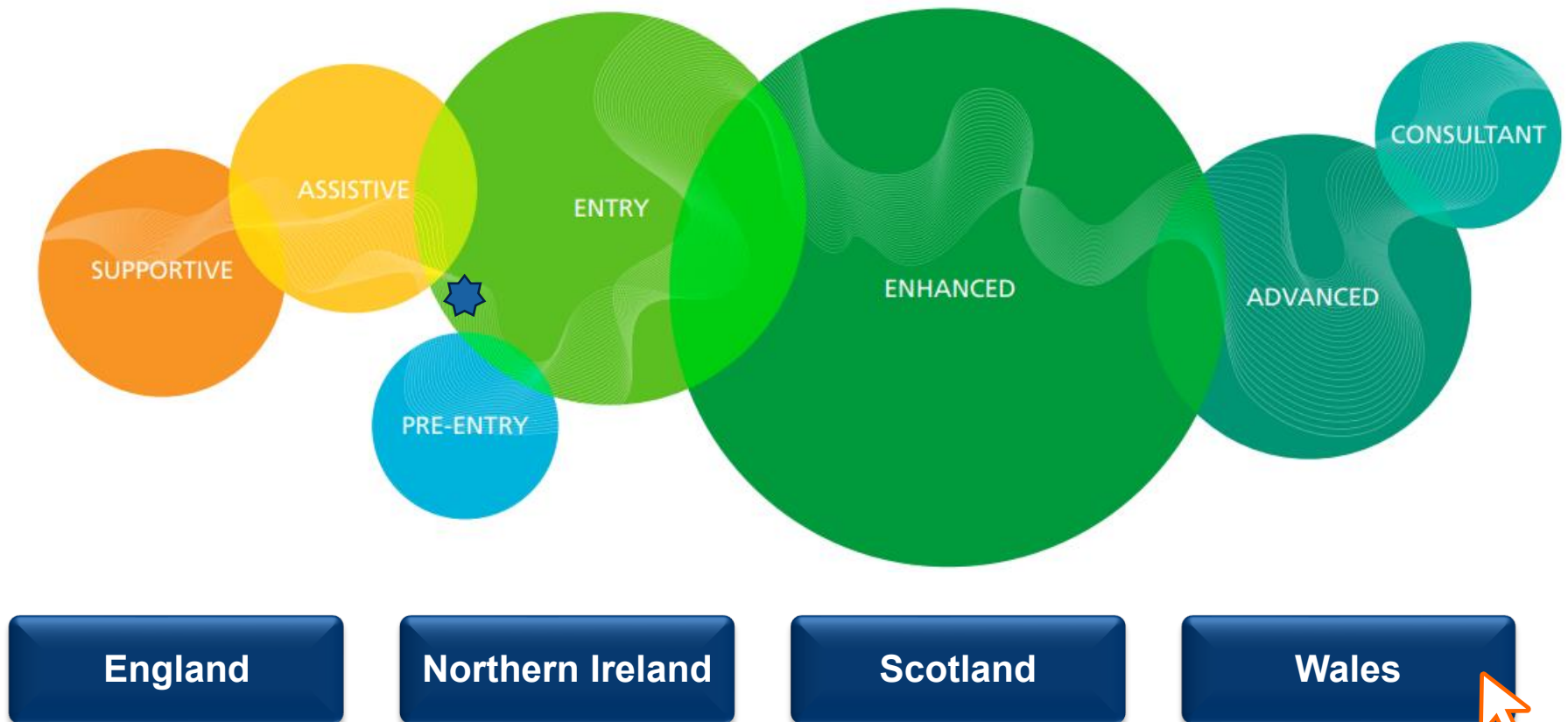
Definition of service user



We use the term 'service user' as a broad phrase to refer to those who use or are affected by the services of professionals registered with the HCPC / GOsC.

Levels of practice

The levels of practice have been set out in national profession specific and multiprofessional frameworks and may differ slightly:



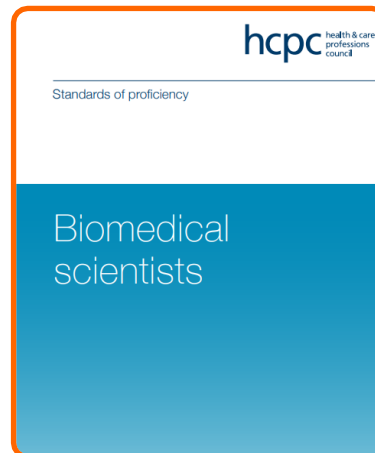
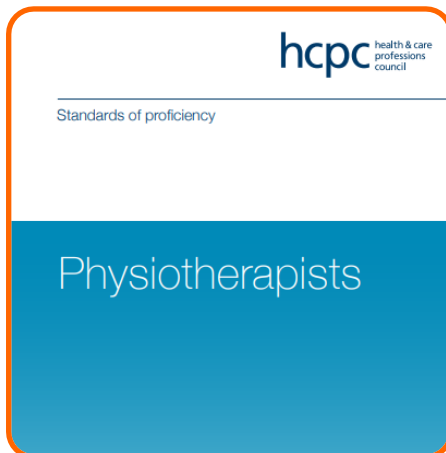
Autonomous at point of entry to profession

Source

What do we mean by scope of practice?

Your scope of practice

Your scope of practice is the area or areas of your profession in which you have the knowledge, skills and experience to practise lawfully, safely and effectively, in a way that meets the standards and does not pose danger to the public or to yourself.



Scope of practice - HCPC

Keep within your scope of practice

You must only practise in the areas where you have the **appropriate knowledge, skills and experience** to meet the needs of a service user safely and effectively

You must undertake **additional training** to update your knowledge, skills and experience if you wish to widen your scope of practice

You must **refer a service user** to an appropriate practitioner if the care, treatment or other services they need are beyond your scope of practice. This person must hold the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to meet the needs of the service user safely and effectively

Scope of practice - GOsC

Standard B2:

You must recognise and work within the limits of your training and competence

1. You should use your professional judgement to assess whether you have the training, skills and competence to treat a patient, seeking advice where necessary.
2. If not, you should consider:
 - 2.1 seeking advice or assistance from an appropriate source to support your care for the patient
 - 2.2 working with other osteopaths and healthcare professionals to secure the most appropriate care for your patient
 - 2.3 referring the patient to another osteopath or appropriately qualified healthcare professional.

Scope of practice evolves with you and requires you to use your professional judgement

As you progress in your career, you may enter into more specialist practice roles where you are no longer meeting all the standards of proficiency. Your scope of practice will develop with you and may become narrower in scope.

Determining what is and is not part of your scope of practice will be for you to decide using your professional judgement.

[Identifying your current scope of practice | The HCPC](#)



Service user perspectives of advanced practitioners

I would feel positive, as long as their role was clearly explained to me at the start – particularly around the boundaries of the role (what they can / can't do, when I would need to be referred to somebody else, etc).

I think it is important to know the background of the practitioner...
I want to feel completely comfortable and safe in the knowledge that I am being treated by the fully authorised and trained person.

Scope of practice

An evolving process encompassing the profession,
the individual and the level of practice



Source

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 2025

What do we mean by scope optimisation?

Our scope of practice evolves over time depending on the context of our work.



Scope optimisation:

Making the best use of our time, knowledge and skills to benefit the people we serve, within the context of our work, while working within our scope of practice.

Levels of practice – defined by profession



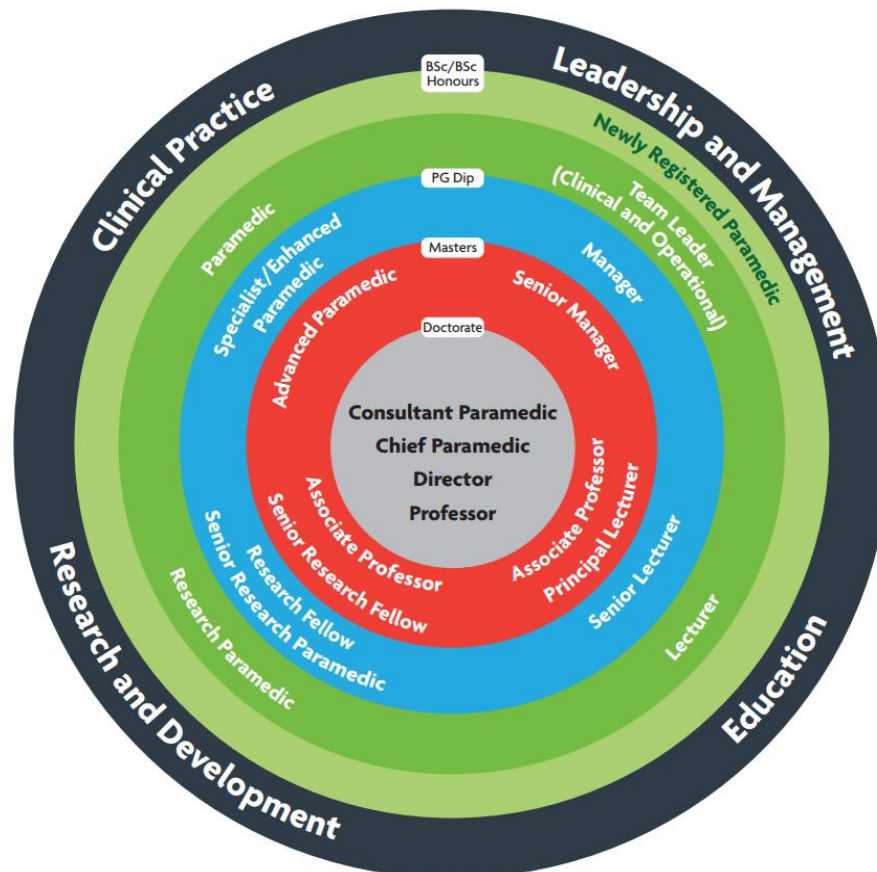
Level of practice and illustrative job roles <small>*This is not an exhaustive list</small>	Applicable Sphere of Influence	Education levels (or equivalent)	Definition – People at this level:
Enhanced level orthoptists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice educators (Clinical Tutors) Lead Clinical Tutor Team Leads Research Fellows Lecturers Clinical Academics 	Enhanced Level	Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma: FHEQ Level 7 / SCQF Level 11 *Or equivalent experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Function in unpredictable environments Manage risk but liaise with more experience colleagues regarding major decision making Lead a team, usually within a broader service Use complex professional reasoning skills, underpinned by theoretical knowledge across all Four Domains of practice alongside experience, but take advice from others with more experience for an overall plan Influence people within their local context (including service users, learners, department and service-level colleagues) <p><small>*Historically orthoptists may have Advanced in their job title. In the Professional Development Framework 'Advanced' refers to a level of practice (see top of section 3.3)</small></p>
Advanced* level orthoptists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced orthoptists Advanced (clinical) practitioner (ACP) Service / Regional Managers Lead Clinical Tutor Senior Lecturers / Readers Research Leads (regional) 	Advanced Level	Post-registration qualifications Masters: FHEQ Level 7 / SCQF Level 11 *Or equivalent experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Function in unpredictable environments, manage risk within a locality and support others to do so Have high-level complex decision-making abilities, using tacit and a highly developed body of theoretical knowledge acquired from significant experience and relevant practical experience, across all Four Domains of practice Demonstrate critical analysis of complex facts and autonomous decision making within an area of practice Independently undertake complex clinical assessments and formulate management plans for patients with complex needs Set up and lead a team or service Influence people within local and regional systems



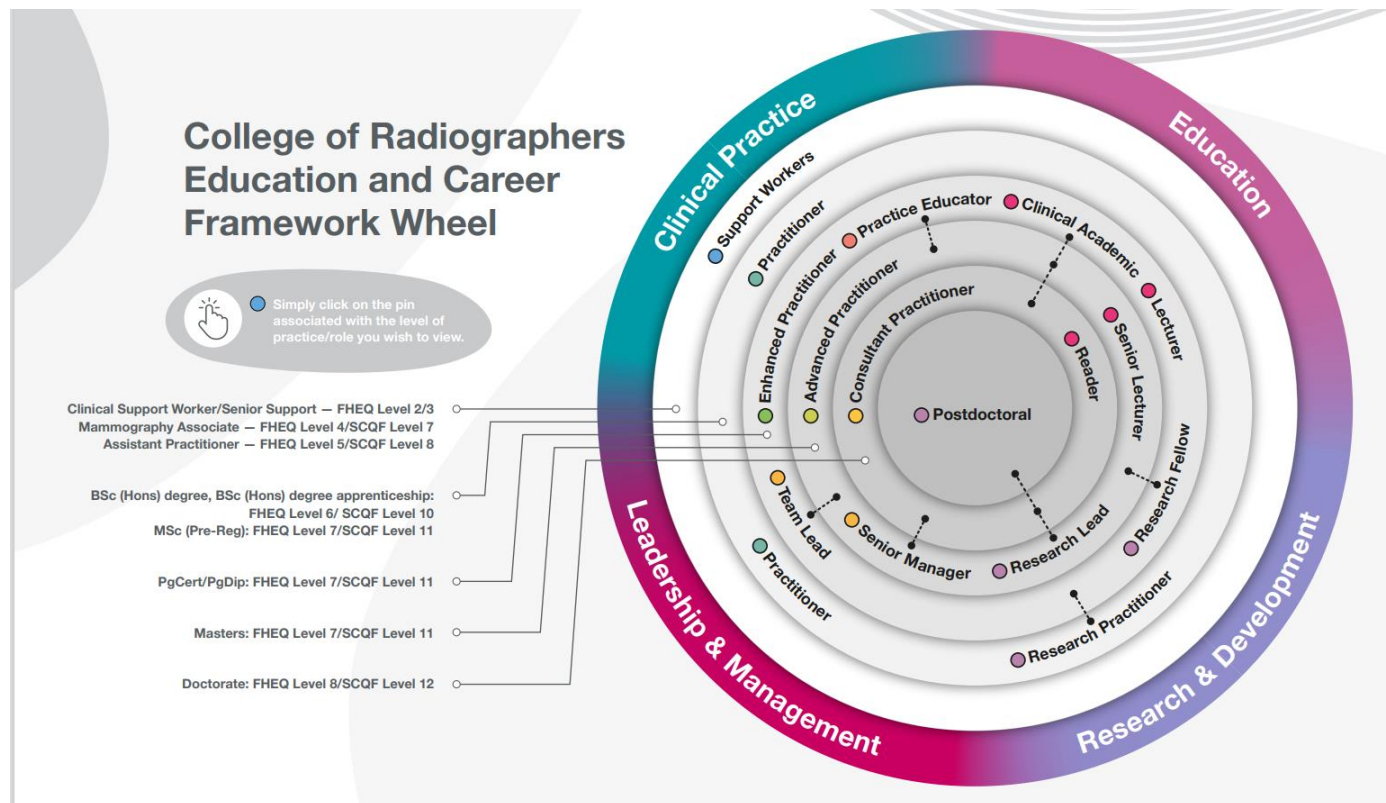
Source



Levels of practice in the workforce: an example across sectors



Levels of practice in the workforce: an example across sectors



Source



Vote 1: In my role as a registrant

- I believe it is **widely understood** that regulators set standards to maintain safe and effective practice to protect the public.
- I believe it is **widely understood** that professional bodies help shape the scope of practice for specific professions informed by standards set by the regulators.
- I believe it is **widely understood** that an individual's scope of practice evolves with time, experience, additional qualifications and / or when they move job roles and / or sectors.

Vote 1 - Scope of practice as a
registrant



<https://forms.office.com/e/nhPZyNZaUj>

Advanced practice

Statement on Advanced Practice from the Chief Allied Health Professions Officers in each of the four UK countries:

2. Statement on Advanced Practice

Whatever the specific profession, role and context, all advanced practice AHPs will have the necessary advanced-level capabilities across all four pillars of practice needed to provide safe, high quality, holistic care with people, their families and carers.

All AHPs, including those working in advanced practice roles, are statutorily regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).¹

Robust employer governance is central to the safe and effective employment, utilisation and deployment of advanced practice AHPs.

Other reading

[four-country-ap-statement-oct-2024.pdf](#)
[Updates on Advanced Practice | The HCPC](#)



Advanced practice

Statement on Advanced Practice from the Chief Allied Health Professions Officers in each of the four UK countries:

Advanced Practice in allied health professions involves complex decision-making, underpinned by a post-registration master's level award or equivalent undertaken by an experienced practitioner that encompasses all four pillars of practice: clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research. It is delivered by skilled and experienced registered health and care professionals who exercise significant autonomy, judgement and responsibility in their roles.

Advanced practitioners manage complex care in partnership with individuals, families and carers, analysing and synthesising complex problems, often as part of multi-professional teams. They handle clinical risk and uncertainty across significant areas of work, in various settings, developing innovative solutions to expedite access to care, optimise peoples' experiences, drive population health and prevention and improve outcomes

Other reading

[four-country-ap-statement-oct-2024.pdf](#)
[Updates on Advanced Practice | The HCPC](#)

Four Pillars of Practice



Source

[NHS Education Scotland, 2025](#)



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

Four Pillars of Practice and Levels of Practice



Source

British Association of Arts Therapists, 2025



Multiprofessional CPD principles

The five principles

CPD and lifelong learning should:

- 1 Principle 1:**
be each person's responsibility and be made possible and supported by your employer;
- 2 Principle 2:**
benefit service users;
- 3 Principle 3:**
improve the quality of service delivery;
- 4 Principle 4:**
be balanced and relevant to each person's area of practice or employment; and
- 5 Principle 5:**
be recorded and show the effect on each person's area of practice.

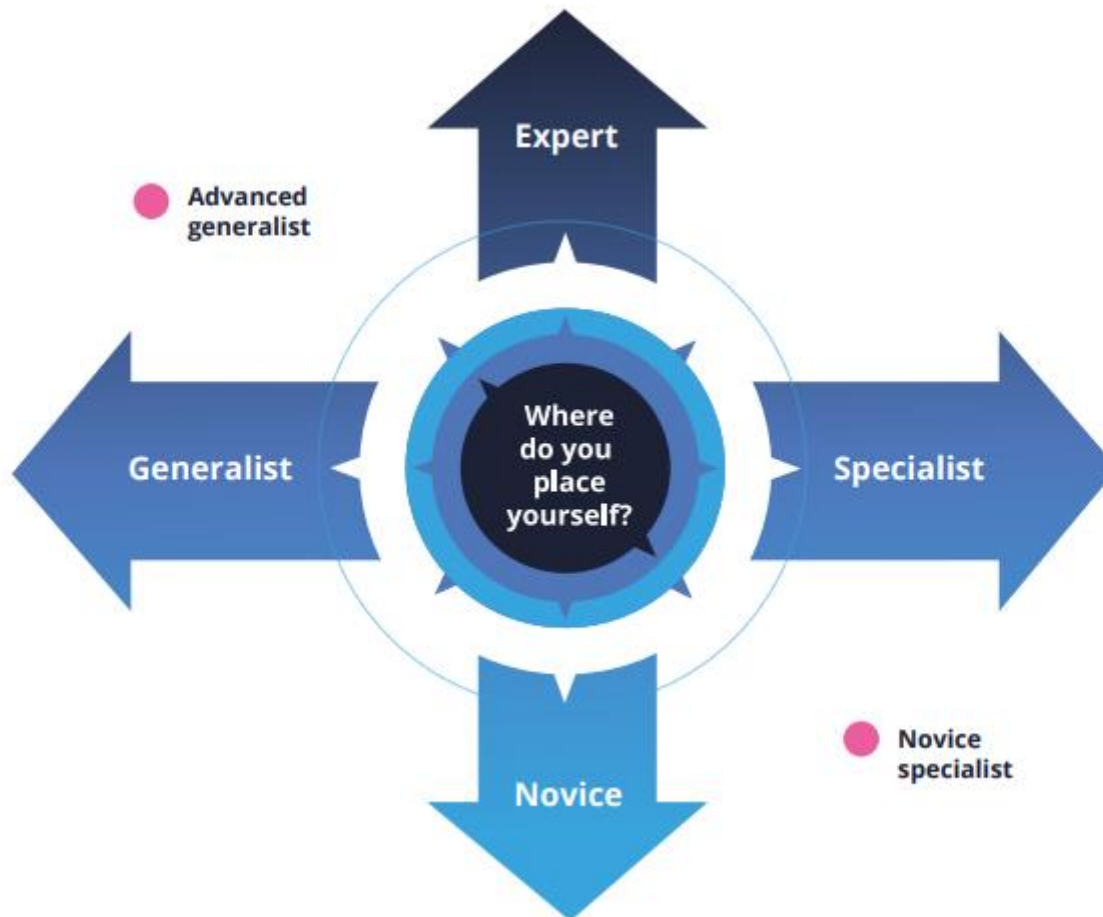
Other reading

[CPD is not just a 'nice to have':
Why everyone in the system should support CPD | The HCPC](#)

Source

Broughton W and Harris G. (2022) (Eds.)

Specialist versus generalist



Source

Service user perspectives of advanced practitioners



Source



Vote 2: In my role as a registrant...

- I believe it is **widely understood** that registrants must know their **individual scope of practice** and the associated knowledge and skills to maintain safe and effective practice.
- I believe it is **widely understood** that registrants must know their **professions' scope of practice**, across the four pillars of practice, to maintain safe and effective practice.
- I believe that it is **widely understood** that registrants must align their CPD activities and professional portfolio to their scope of practice.
- I believe that it is **widely understood** that registrants must align their CPD activities and professional portfolio to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Vote 2: Scope of practice for registrants

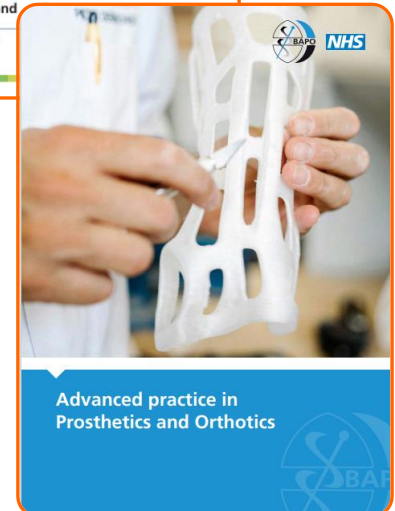


<https://forms.office.com/e/6Ub3txCyp2>

Support for professional judgement

When thinking about your scope of practice, ask yourself the following:

- 1 Do I have the skills and knowledge to carry out the activity safely and effectively?
- 2 Can I complete training or receive other support (such as supervision) that will give me the skills and knowledge needed to carry out the activity safely and effectively?
- 3 Is the activity restricted by law (e.g. prescribing) and, if so, can I legally do it?
- 4 Does my professional indemnity insurance cover the activity?



Safe and effective: a shared directive



Vote 3: in my role as a registrant...

- I believe it is **widely understood** that the employing organisation must have robust governance arrangements in place to maintain safe and effective practice for all career levels.
- I believe it is **widely understood** that our scope of practice is not explicitly tied to a pay grade.
- I believe that it is **widely understood** that a scope of practice is determined by the role that the professional is filling at that time.

Vote 3: Scope of practice for registrants



<https://forms.office.com/e/Cggpubb4aY>



A sample of other resources

Profession-specific resources	Multi-professional resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal College of Podiatry• British Dietetic Association• Royal College of Occupational Therapists• British and Irish Orthoptic Society• College of Paramedics• Chartered Society of Physiotherapy• British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists• Society of Radiographers• Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists• Art, Drama and Music Therapy – Framework update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope of practice The HCPC• Scope of practice The GOsC• NES Advanced Practice Toolkit• NHSE Multi professional consultant-level practice capabilities and impact framework• Allied health professionals, pharmacists and healthcare scientists NIHR• AHP Educator Career Framework Council of Deans• Area specific capabilities• NHSE Organisational maturity matrix• Multiprofessional Advanced Practice Frameworks• England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales

and more....

Recap: putting it all together

- Levels of practice are important formal structures in employment and regulatory standards apply across all of them.
- The HCPC / GOsC standards and scope of practice guidance apply to all registrants irrespective of their job title or seniority within an organisation. There is no separate, additional regulatory framework or set of standards for registrants working at higher levels.
- Developing into more advanced levels of practice means developing new skills, working with greater autonomy and complexity across the four pillars of practice, guided by service user needs. Your CPD should reflect this.
- Safe and effective practice, including as you optimise your scope of practice, requires active input from the registrant, the employer, the profession and the regulator.





Action points – for the next fortnight and evaluation

We'd like to hear from you again. To help us understand the impact of the webinar today, please can you:

1. **Provide an initial response to two final questions before you leave us today:**
 - a) How informative did you find the webinar?
 - b) How relevant was the content for your practice as a registrant / manager?
2. **Share with us one action point, no matter how small, that you plan to take away from today and do within the next two weeks.**

Webinar actions and evaluation



<https://forms.office.com/e/gcLkCzr0e9>

Webinar series – a reminder

We recommend attending a session for both topics relevant to your role.

For registrants:

Understanding your scope of practice at advanced levels of practice

- Monday 29 September 2025, 1.30pm
- Wednesday 22 October 2025, 10am

Supervision and delegation at advanced levels of practice - what you need to consider

- Wednesday 1 October 2025, 9.30am
- Monday 3 November 2025, 1.30pm

For managers:

Effectively managing practitioners working at advanced levels of practice

- Wednesday 8 October, 9.30am
- Monday 20 October, 2pm

Maximising your team's potential through safe and effective delegation and supervision

- Monday 6 October 2025, 1.30pm
- Wednesday 5 November 2025, 9.30am



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

Key contacts

	HCPC	GOsC
Policy	policy@hcpc-uk.org	standards@osteopathy.org.uk
Fitness to practise	ftp@hcpc-uk.org	regulation@osteopathy.org.uk
Registration	registration@hcpc-uk.org	registration@osteopathy.org.uk
Education	education@hcpc-uk.org	education@osteopathy.org.uk
Feedback	feedback@hcpc-uk.org	info@osteopathy.org.uk



General
Osteopathic
Council

hcpc health & care
professions
council

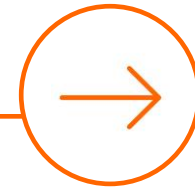
Next steps and thank you



We will send you a copy of the slides and a summary of the voting after the session



We will ask you for some follow-up feedback including to support the second part of this work



Second part of project: Resource development to be completed by spring 2026 to include new resources and signposts to existing ones.

Thank you for your time and contributions today.