

Fact sheet

September 2018

Supervised practice levels for paramedicine

This fact sheet supports the *Supervised practice framework for paramedics (interim)* and provides further information about the levels of supervised practice.

The levels of supervised practice outlined below are designed to accommodate the requirements for supervised practice across all aspects of the regulation of the paramedicine profession. The main goal is to ensure that any practitioner required to undertake a period of supervised practice is practising safely, competently and ethically.

Progression is not mandatory. There may be times when there is no progression. For example, some supervisees will need to stay at the same level of supervision for the whole period.

Not all levels of supervision will be used and progression from one level to the next may not be required.

How will the Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) determine the appropriate level to start supervised practice and any change of level?

The purpose for supervised practice and the inherent risk associated with it will inform how closely the practitioner needs to be supervised, the accountability for care given and the proximity and accessibility of the supervisor.

What does each level of supervision mean in practice?

Further guidance on what each level means in practice are set out in the table below. These definitions aim to accommodate paramedics working in different practice settings, including practice in clinical or non-clinical environments.

Level	Specifications
Direct <i>Supervisor physically present at all times to observe the supervisee</i>	Summary The supervisor takes direct and principal responsibility for individual patients. The supervisee must consult and follow the directions of the supervisor about the management of each patient, including the process of assessment, before care is given. This must be directly observed by the supervisor who is physically present at all times. What does this mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supervisor must be physically present at the workplace, observing when the supervisee is providing clinical care at all times the supervisor must be able to intervene in the delivery of clinical care if required supervision via teleconference or another form of telecommunication is not allowed, and

Level	Specifications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supervisee must consult the supervisor about the management of each patient before care is given.
<p>Indirect 1 (present)</p> <p><i>Supervisor physically present at the workplace</i></p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>The supervisee and the supervisor share responsibility for individual patients.</p> <p>The supervisee must consult with the supervisor who is always physically present in the workplace and available to observe and discuss when necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the management of patients, including when care is given, and/or the performance of the supervisee. <p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supervisor must be physically present at the workplace when the supervisee is providing clinical care the supervisor is not necessarily present in the same room at all times if the approved supervisor is temporarily absent from the workplace then an alternative approved supervisor must be available the supervisee must inform the supervisor when they have concerns, and at agreed intervals, about the management of each patient. This may be after the care has been provided, and the supervisor, or someone nominated by the supervisor, needs to be able to intervene in the provision of clinical care if required.
<p>Indirect 2 (accessible)</p> <p><i>Supervisor is accessible by phone or other means of communication or they are physically present at the workplace</i></p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>The supervisee takes primary responsibility for their practice and the management of individual patients within the supervisor's general oversight.</p> <p>The supervisee must consult with the supervisor who is accessible by telephone or other means of telecommunication and/or available to attend the workplace to observe and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the management of patients, and/or the performance of the supervisee when necessary. <p>This may be after the care is provided.</p> <p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if not immediately available, the supervisor needs to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> available by phone or other means of telecommunication at all times able to attend the supervisee's workplace if required, and able to monitor if the supervisee is practising safely, including if they are working after-hours or on call. the supervisor and supervisee must conduct regular case reviews, and the supervisee is permitted to work independently, provided the supervisor is readily contactable by telephone or other means of telecommunication such as video conference.

Level	Specifications
<p>Remote <i>Supervisor is not present at the workplace</i></p>	<p>Summary The supervisee takes primary responsibility for their practice including the management of individual patients.</p> <p>The supervisee must consult the supervisor, who is accessible by telephone or other means of telecommunication when necessary and at agreed intervals about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the management of patients, and/or • the performance of the supervisee. <p>What does this mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the supervisor must provide broad oversight of the supervisee's practice • the supervisor must be available by phone or other forms of telecommunication for case review or consultation if the supervisee requires assistance, and • the supervisor and supervisee must conduct regular case reviews.

How does a supervisee progress through levels?

The purpose and underlying risk for supervised practice will sometimes allow for a progression through levels to be planned. It may also be appropriate at times for progression to be at the discretion of the supervisor if the Board agrees to do so through the supervised practice agreement/plan.

The Board will take the necessary regulatory action required if a supervisee does not progress as expected or there are identified risks to the health and safety of the public.