



## **CLINICAL PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR ATMS TEACHING INSTITUTIONS**

### **What Is Supervised Clinical Practice?**

Supervised clinical practice refers to a situation where a student consults with clients, performs an appropriate health assessment, prepares and provides treatment/management plans, in a clinic open to members of the public and while under the supervision or direction of a clinician, tutor or practitioner employed or contracted by the college or institution.

Supervised clinical practice must be undertaken in the presence of a lecturer, tutor, or qualified supervisor who must be physically present at and directly observing at least part of each student consultation. Selection of a clinical practice supervisor is determined by the teaching institution.

Supervised clinical practice does not include any unsupervised practice on family, friends or other students, or consultations/treatments provided in a classroom setting.

For tactile therapies and acupuncture, at least 80% of the clinic hours must be spent actively assessing and treating clients under supervision (i.e. no more than 20% of the time spent observing, working in reception etc).

For other therapies, at least 70% of the clinic hours must be spent actively assessing and treating clients under supervision (i.e., no more than 30% of the time spent observing, working in reception, working in the dispensary on tasks not directly related to their consultations etc).



## **Supervisor:Student Ratio**

The supervisor:student ratio must not typically exceed 1:8.

## **Key Elements Of Supervised Clinical Practice**

**Note:** The phrase “relevant natural medicine modality” in this section (*Key elements of supervised clinical practice*) refers to the subject modality of the qualification for which accreditation by ATMS is being sought. Additionally the clinical competencies being achieved are expected to satisfy the demands of both the modality and the qualification level.

For example if accreditation is being sought for a Certificate IV in Massage Therapy Practice, the “relevant natural medicine modality” is basic (relaxation type) massage therapy. If accreditation is being sought for a Diploma of Remedial Massage then the “relevant natural medicine modality” is a more advanced remedial massage therapy. For an Advance Diploma of Naturopathy, the broad naturopathic modality is the “relevant natural medicine modality”, not just say Herbal Medicine, Nutrition or Homoeopathy.

The following key elements (competencies) must be demonstrated as a minimum:

### *Health Assessment & Treatment*

- Demonstrated ability to perform the relevant natural medicine modality health assessment
- Demonstrated ability to analyse and interpret the information obtained from the client history and the relevant natural medicine modality health assessment
- Demonstrated ability to formulate and test trial health assessments in respect of clients which are appropriate to the relevant natural medicine modality
- Demonstrated ability to treat clients using techniques appropriate to the relevant natural medicine modality



### *Communication*

- Demonstrated ability to obtain, record and maintain accurate client records
- Demonstrated ability to discuss the treatment strategy with the client, including gaining informed consent
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with clients and other health care professionals, including the demonstration of a competent and caring professional manner appropriate to the relevant natural medicine modality
- Demonstrated understanding of cross-cultural issues for working with a range of clients
- Demonstrated ability to describe the place of the relevant natural medicine modality within the framework of health and health-related services in a local community
- Demonstrated ability to make referrals to other health care professionals when appropriate
- Demonstrated ability to write a professional report

### *Professional Practice*

- Demonstrated ability to work in a sole practice, including being able to perform daily operations of the relevant natural medicine modality clinic (e.g. reception skills, stock control, dispensary duties)
- Demonstrated ability to work in a group practice, including being able to perform in a manner appropriate for a group practice the daily operations of the relevant natural medicine modality clinic (e.g. reception skills, stock control, dispensary duties)
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in the broader health profession

### *Ethico-legal*

- Demonstrated ability to follow occupational health and safety procedures
- Demonstrated ability to comply with infection control policies and procedures
- Demonstrated ability to work within ethico-legal boundaries when dealing with clients and other health professionals
- Demonstrated ability apply first aid if required



## Requirements Of Supervisors

Training institutions are responsible for induction and training of clinical supervisors to align job role expectations, and performance and assessment criteria.

The primary roles of supervisors are:

- assessing and mentoring students
- providing feedback to students and to their training institution on the student's ability to apply knowledge and skills in a workplace environment

### *Supervisor qualifications*

- Relevant recognised natural medicine qualification equal to or higher than the training program the student is enrolled in.
- A minimum of 3 years clinical practice in the discipline the student is enrolled in.
- Appropriate communication, mentoring skills and English language skills as determined by the teaching Institution.
- Current membership of a recognised professional association specific to natural medicine
- Preferred teaching qualification for VET sector courses is Cert IV TAA or equivalent. Where this is not achieved, **the training institute is to ensure that the final assessment of the student is undertaken by an assessor who holds the Cert IV TAA or equivalent.**



## **Requirements Of Students**

Students undertaking supervised clinical practice are required to fulfil the following:

- 100% attendance for the ATMS designated supervised clinic hours
- Active participation
- A completed client file or written report of each consultation. (A written report should include name, address, telephone, date of birth of client, medical history, presenting clinical features, medication, diet and lifestyle factors, health assessment outcomes, rationale for the proposed management of the client, evidence of informed consent, expected outcomes for the client, evidence of research where appropriate, efficacy of treatment when known, and reflection on personal performance.)
- Evidence of appropriate research/literature search where relevant to a client's case
- Professional behaviour appropriate for a natural medicine clinical setting
- Demonstration of clinical competence appropriate to their level of study

## **Requirements Of Teaching institutions**

Teaching institutions are responsible for fully informing students and supervisors of their rights and responsibilities in relation to supervised clinical practice. They are responsible for the induction and training of all supervisors, including cases when supervision is outsourced to practitioners in private practices, and for providing feedback to supervisors. Students must be fully informed of all requirements for clinical practice including insurance cover and cost (determined by the teaching institution).