

Understanding your scope of practice at advanced levels of practice

This resource is for use by HCPC registrants and those supporting this workforce. If using within your own presentations, please reference the original source. Some slides have additional notes provided which can also be used in your own work, with source recognition.

March 2026

Content

- ✓ Scope of practice to meet the needs of different service user groups
- ✓ What the HCPC standards say about scope of practice
- ✓ Levels of practice
- ✓ The evolving nature of scope of practice
- ✓ Individual and profession scope of practice
- ✓ Scope of practice and CPD
- ✓ Reflective questions and identifying your next steps to support safe and effective delegation

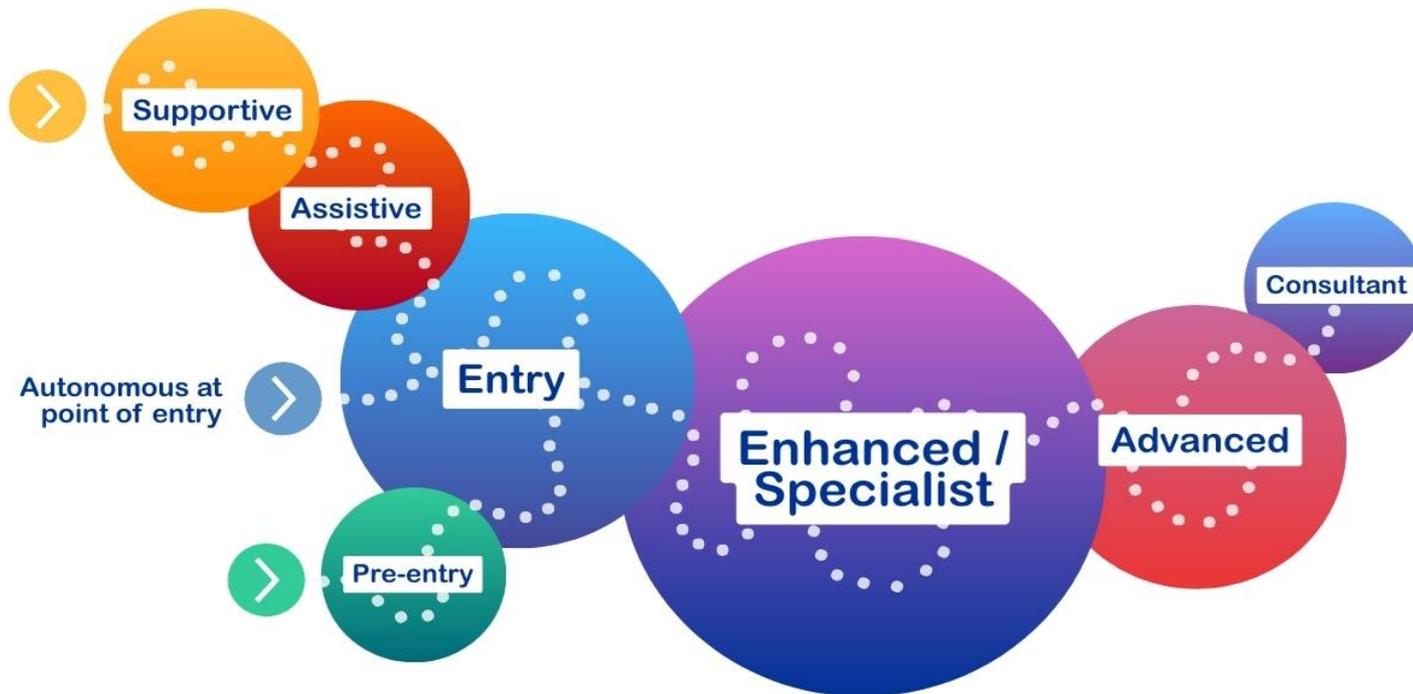
An individual's scope of practice can evolve to meet the needs of our broad range of service users



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.**

For example, people accessing services for their health, families, carers, colleagues, students, those you line manage and more.

Levels of practice



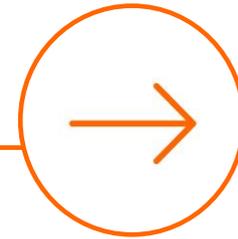
Workforce levels of practice

Reflective questions and any further actions?



How would you describe your level of practice?

How could you evidence your level of practice? (e.g. refer to resources from your professional body or UK country specific resources)



Are there any additional actions you would like to consider?

HCPC standards for scope of practice

Standards of conduct, performance and ethics

3.1 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

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

3.3 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 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 not all the standards of proficiency are relevant to your scope. Your scope of practice will develop with you and may become narrower.

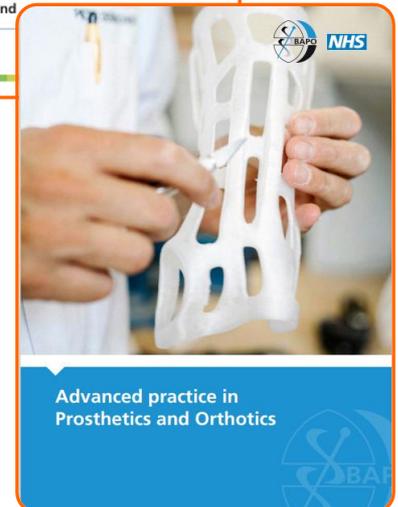
Determining what is and is not part of your scope of practice will be for you to decide using your professional judgement.

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

Support for professional judgement

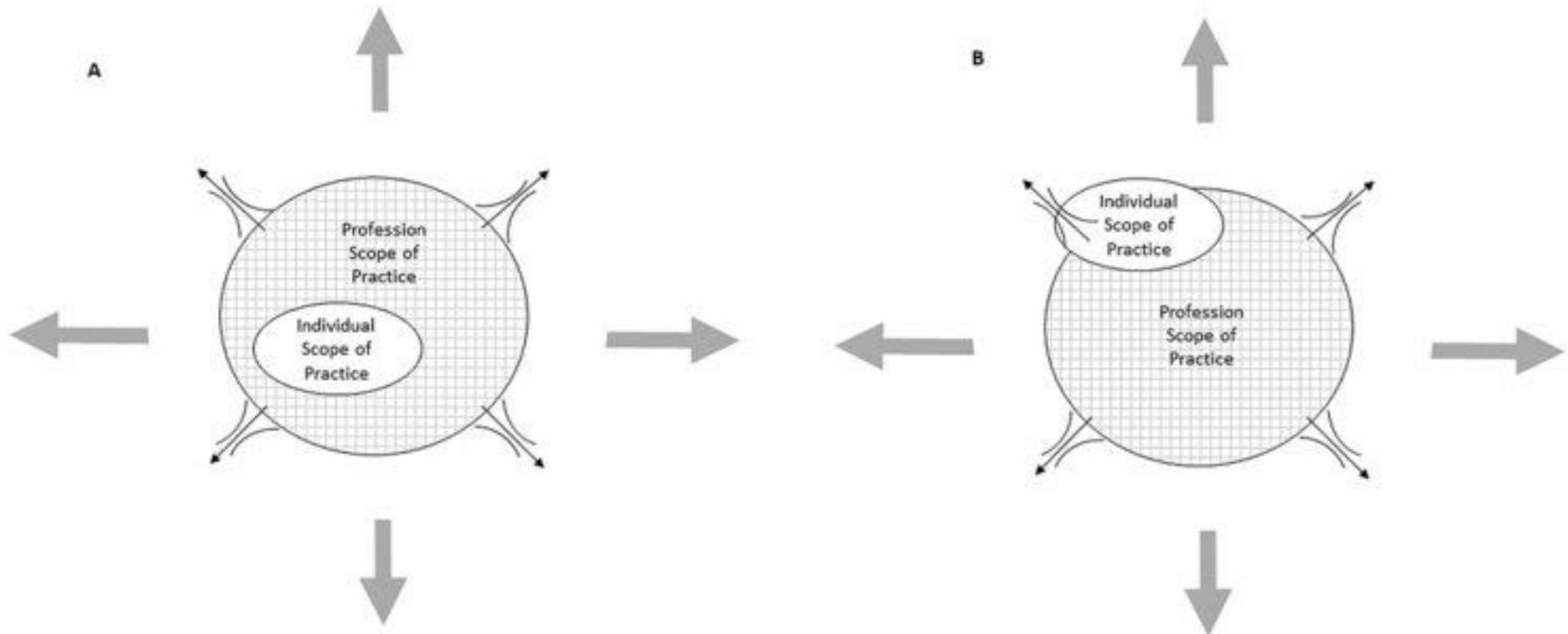
When thinking about your scope of practice, ask yourself the following:

- 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?



The evolving nature of scope of practice (see slide notes for more information)

These diagrams show how an individual scope of practice evolves during a registrant's career and how that interacts with the scope of their profession



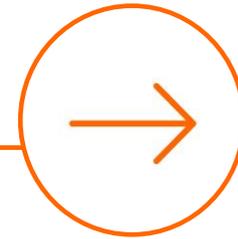
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Reflective questions and any further actions?



How do you conceptualise your scope of practice in relation to your profession?

How do you define and demonstrate your scope of practice including through supervision, experiences, training and additional qualifications?



Are there any additional actions you would like to consider?

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.

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](#)

Advanced practice

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

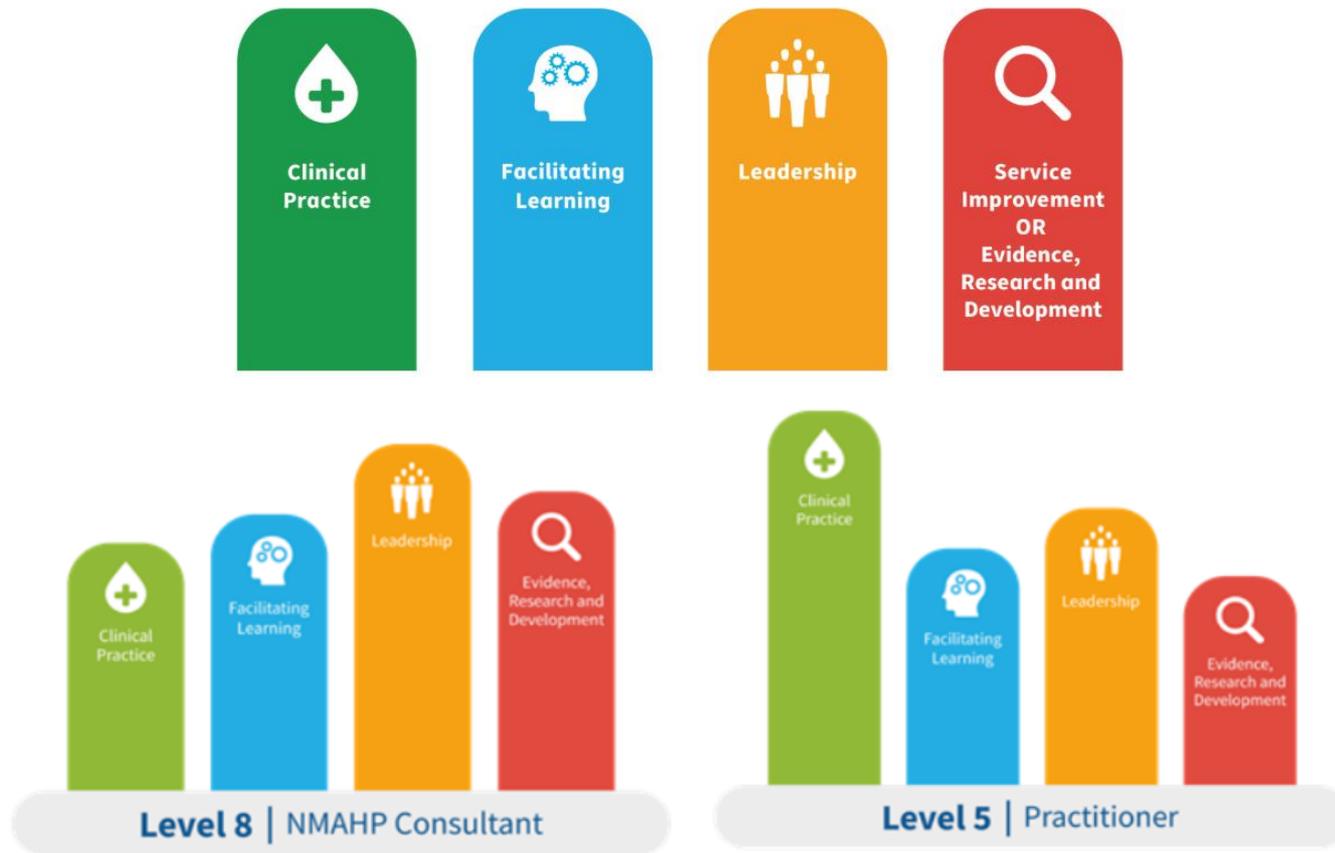
Advanced Practice in allied health professions involves complex decision-making, underpinned by a post-registration master's level award or equivalent undertaken by an experienced practitioner that encompasses all four pillars of practice: clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and 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](#)

Four Pillars of Practice



Source

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.

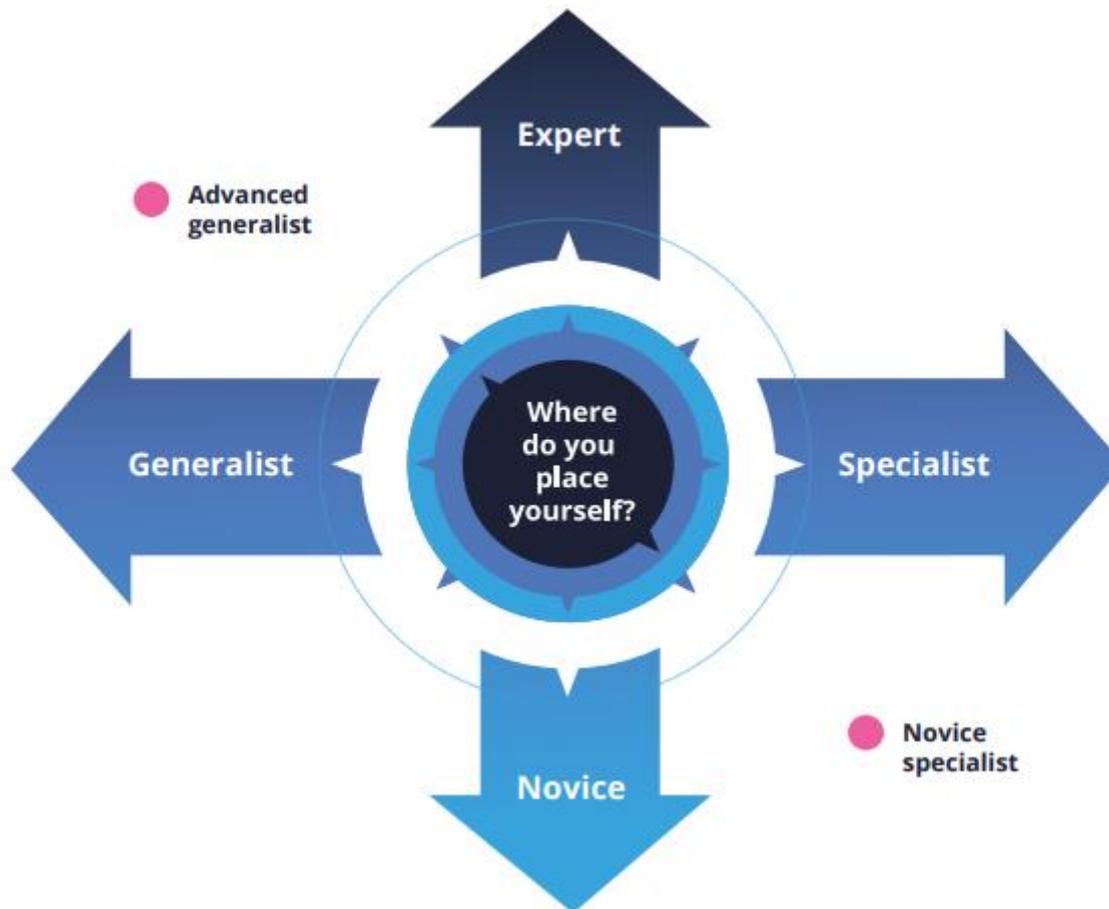
Other reading

[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



Safe and effective: a shared directive

Recap: putting it all together

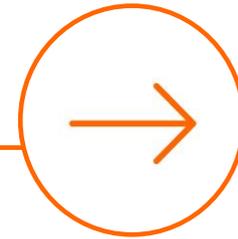
- Levels of practice are important formal structures in employment and regulatory standards apply across all of them.
- The HCPC standards and scope of practice guidance apply to all registrants irrespective of their job title or seniority within an organisation.
- There is no separate, additional regulatory 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.



Reflective questions and any further actions?



What are your key learning points in relation to your scope of practice and / or those who you line manage?



Are there any additional actions you would like to consider?

Identify a small number of actions you can do within the next fortnight to continue to support safe and effective delegation.