

# **Development of a credentialing package to support the introduction of advanced practice occupational therapy driver assessor roles**

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## **Background**

With the growing interest in establishment of advanced and extended scope of practice roles in Allied Health, the Occupational Therapy department of a large public healthcare network recognised the need to develop resources to support the credentialing of advanced practice Occupational Therapy driver assessor roles. While highly specialised with completion of an additional qualification to practice as a driver assessor mandatory, there was no requirement or process in place to ensure clinicians practicing in driver assessor roles were appropriately credentialed. The overall aim of the project was to develop and implement a credentialing package to support the delivery of consistent high quality care by advanced practice Occupational Therapy driver assessors.

## **Method**

A comprehensive credentialing package of advanced practice competencies supported by assessment tools was developed by senior clinician Occupational Therapy driver assessor staff. An initial credentialing package together with re-credentialing documentation was developed.

## **Results**

The credentialing package was ratified by the organisation's Allied Health Credentialing and Professional Advisory committee tasked with governance of advanced practice allied health roles across the organisation. Following completion of the advanced practice competencies, three Occupational Therapy clinicians have been credentialed as advanced driver assessor practitioners. Preliminary feedback evaluating the effectiveness of the process suggests that although time intensive, clinicians felt supported and value recognition of specialised skills.

## **Discussion**

The development and implementation of a credentialing package is a useful way to support the implementation of advanced practice roles and aids sustainability and consistency of practice. Further evaluation of driver assessor advanced practice roles will be undertaken in 12months.