

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Role Delineation

In CSF 2005, the planning process for hospitals and non-hospital services was based on the NSW Health Guide to Role Delineation of Health Services. The intent of the role delineation matrix within CSF 2010 is to guide service planning across the health service continuum. It is a high-level planning tool that ultimately outlines what WA Health aims to achieve over the short, medium and long term.

The role delineation process starts with the identification of specialty groups which are classified as hospital or non-hospital services. Each specialty group is defined in terms of the actual clinical treatment or service provided, the complement of staff required to provide the treatment or service and often, the type of facilities, tools and/or equipment that are needed.

The definitions describe the range of service complexity covered for each specialty group, classifying these as levels 1 through 6. Level 1 services are the least complex and level 6 services are the most complex. However many specialty groups do not include all of the six levels. This standardised set of definitions allows for the categorisation of specialty groups across different sites.

After definitions were completed, the Role Delineation Matrix was constructed. This Matrix shows the most complex level of a specialty that is available at each facility or region in WA. Not all facilities have all specialty groups and certain specialty groups are only available in some facilities. For example, our high level tertiary hospitals will be the only sites to deliver level 6 cardiothoracic surgery, reflecting the highly specialised nature of this type of care.

The CSF 2010 does not attempt to describe all the specialty groups which are provided by health care facilities, but confines itself to those which are widely considered to be the core services.

It must be noted that the definitions matrix includes only brief descriptions of the capabilities and requirements of the specialty groups. Therefore, role delineation definitions should be interpreted with some degree of flexibility, combined with consideration for the functional level of service delivery. Alternatively, at some sites, a service may not satisfy all the stated criteria to achieve a particular level, but may exceed the criteria required for the lower level. These sites are assigned a combination of levels as indicated in the role delineation matrix.

Role delineation does not document the patient journey and the many different pathways that a patient may take to receive the best possible care. Instead the role delineation process defines various services and the level at which these are to be provided at different sites.

In summary, role delineation provides a consistent language to describe health services and acts as a tool for planning service developments.