Hospital Access for the Practice of Obstetrics by General Practitioner Obstetricians and Rural Non Specialist Obstetricians in Australia

*Policy Statement of the Training, Accreditation and Recertification (TAR) Subcommittee of the Conjoint Committee for the Diploma of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CCDOG)*

This statement has been developed by the Training, Accreditation and Recertification (TAR) Subcommittee of the Conjoint Committee for the Diploma of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CCDOG).

**Disclaimer** This information is intended to provide general advice to practitioners. This information should not be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of any patient. This document reflects emerging clinical and scientific advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. The document has been prepared having regard to general circumstances.

**First endorsed by RANZCOG:** November 2011  
**Current:** March 2015  
**Review due:** March 2018

**Background:** This statement was first developed by the Training, Accreditation and Recertification (TAR) Subcommittee of the Conjoint Committee for the Diploma of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CCDOG) in November 2011 and most recently reviewed in March 2015.

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The Training, Accreditation and Recertification (TAR) Subcommittee of the Conjoint Committee for the Diploma of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CCDOG) has prepared the following policy statement for use by hospital boards and committees that credential and define the scope of clinical practice when considering the appointment of urban and rural general practitioner obstetricians\(^1\) and rural non specialist obstetricians\(^2\) to hospital posts.

All hospitals with obstetric units are encouraged to provide general practitioner obstetricians and rural non specialist obstetricians access to obstetrics, including intrapartum care, to both private and public patients and should involve the general practitioner obstetrician and rural non specialist obstetrician in the postgraduate training programs. In particular, the TAR Subcommittee encourages all hospitals that undertake training for the Diploma of the RANZCOG (DRANZCOG) to provide such access to Obstetrics units.

The DRANZCOG (or its predecessor, the Diploma in Obstetrics RACOG) or its equivalent is the required qualification for appointment to an obstetric unit, and all practitioners with a Diploma who practise in the region of the hospital should be eligible for consideration for appointment.

General practitioner obstetricians and rural non specialist obstetricians should be accredited to practise a range of obstetric procedures, and these clinical credentials should be established upon appointment, and reviewed on a triennial basis by the appropriately constituted hospital committee. Each individual’s application for their scope of clinical practice should be judged on its own merit, taking into account the training and experience of the general practitioner obstetrician or rural non specialist obstetrician and the local needs, facilities and support.

The TAR Subcommittee has developed ‘Guidelines for the Assistance of Hospital Committees in the Delineation of Credentials and Scope of Clinical Practice for General Practitioner Obstetricians and Rural Non Specialist Obstetricians Practising Obstetrics in Australia’, and reference to these Guidelines is recommended during determination of an individual’s obstetric privileges.

The principles expressed in the above statement also apply in broad outline to the New Zealand situation. However, in that setting the appropriate diploma qualifications would include the respective diplomas of the University of Auckland and the University of Otago. In addition the appointment process relates more to access agreements for respective hospitals or District Health Boards.

Links to other College Statements

Guidelines for the assistance of hospital committees in the delineation of credentials and scope of clinical practice for GP Obstetricians and rural non specialist Obstetricians practising obstetrics in Australia (WPI 06)

Evidence-based Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology (C-Gen 15)

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\(^1\) The terms general practitioner obstetricians and rural non specialist obstetricians includes practise in urban, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas.

\(^2\) The term rural non specialist obstetricians in this document does not include fellows of the ACRRM who hold specialist qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology.
Full Disclaimer
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This information has been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each practitioner to have regard to the particular circumstances of each case. Clinical management should be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

This information has been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of its preparation, and each practitioner should have regard to relevant information, research or material which may have been published or become available subsequently.

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