

New Zealand Pain Society (NZPS): Review of professional pain curriculum and qualifications.

The NZPS is a multidisciplinary society with the goals of education and advocacy for pain research and clinical practice. The Council has been asked about the standards for establishing professional competency in pain management for the health professions represented in the NZPS.

A detailed description of essential professional skills in pain management is collated in the document Core Standards for Pain Management Services in the UK¹. This document was developed by the Faculty of Pain Medicine and endorsed by professional organisations for psychology, physiotherapy, nursing, General Practice, occupational therapy and pharmacy, as well as consumer representative organisations. The document refers to an “evolution of professionalisation of pain medicine and pain management over recent decades”. The International Association for the Study of Pain also provide frameworks for essential curriculum by professional discipline².

Pain is a registered medical speciality in NZ. The Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) documents professional competencies and resources on specific areas of pain management³. It is also due to release an online learning resource on pain which will be available to all health professionals.

The NZ Nursing Pain Knowledge and Skills Framework is a summary of pain knowledge and skills for the nursing team. This is an important and comprehensive document developed by the NZPS NSIG and endorsed by the National Nursing Consortium NZ in 2013⁴. The document has been endorsed by the British Pain Society and by the Royal College of Nursing as a starting point for their professional knowledge framework. The framework is due for review in 2018. The document details skills and knowledge in the categories of competent, proficient, and expert level skills.

This document summarises the current national and international professional standards for pain expertise for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Psychology which are the three largest Allied Health professions within the NZPS.

Discipline	Professional registration	NZ based discipline specific qualifications	International standards
Physiotherapy	Pain specialist scope of practice introduced 2016. Requires Master’s degree and specialist experience. http://www.physioboard.org.nz/sites/default/files/Information%20Sheet%20December%202016.pdf	Postgraduate study at Auckland University of Technology, http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/health-sciences/postgraduate-study/rehabilitation (IASP endorsed)	IASP Core qualifications for Physical Therapists ² . UK: The Physiotherapy Pain Association, has developed a competency framework for physiotherapists working within pain management ⁵ . http://ppa.csp.org.uk/about-ppa Physical Therapy tasks defined in UK Standards for Pain management ¹
Occupational Therapy	No specific qualification/scope of practice. General OT competencies are defined in the following document: http://www.otboard.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Competencies_April20151.pdf	No specific postgraduate study	IASP Core qualifications for Occupational Therapists ² . UK: OT tasks defined in UK Standards for Pain management ¹

Psychology	No specific pain scope of practice. Core competencies and existing specialist scopes are defined in http://www.psychologistsboard.org.nz/cms_s how_download.php?id=411	Post Graduate Diploma in Health Psychology available at Auckland University. This usually includes theory and practical experience in pain management.	IASP Core qualifications for Psychologists ² . UK: Psychology tasks defined in UK Standards for Pain management ¹ Health psychologist is a specialist scope with defined competencies ⁶ Australia: Australian Pain Society has published a position statement on the role of the psychologist in the management of persistent pain that outlines essential skills ⁷ .
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Specialist study on pain in NZ:

- Postgraduate study at Auckland University of Technology, <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/health-sciences/postgraduate-study/rehabilitation> (IASP endorsed). Pain Paper: http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/589780/Pain-Mechanisms-and-Management-RHAB818-Paper-Flyer-2017.pdf
- Postgraduate study in Pain and Pain Management, University of Otago. (IASP endorsed). <http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/subjects/pain.html>
- Faculty of Pain Medicine: Essential pain management e-learning modules. <http://fpm.anzca.edu.au/communications/essential-pain-management-e-newsletter> (scheduled to be launched in 2017).

There are many international training programmes in pain management available. A free paediatric pain online learning programme for health professionals, based on the IASP curriculum, is available at <http://www.sickkids.ca/pain-centre/Health-care-Professionals/Online%20Pain%20Curriculum/index.html>

References

1. Core Standards for Pain Management services in the UK, Faculty of Pain Medicine, October 2015. <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/FPM-CSPMS-UK2015.pdf>
2. IASP Curricula. <http://www.iasp-pain.org/Education/CurriculaList.aspx?navItemNumber=647>

Medicine

3. Pain Specialist vocational scope. <https://www.mcnz.org.nz/get-registered/scopes-of-practice/vocational-registration/types-of-vocational-scope/pain-medicine/>

Nursing

4. Nursing Pain Knowledge and Skills Framework http://www.ivnznz.co.nz/files/file/7637/NZ%20Pain%20Management%20Nursing%20Knowledge+Skills%20Framework%20Dec%202011_FA.pdf

Physiotherapy:

5. Physiotherapy Pain Association & Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (2014) *Physiotherapy Framework. Describing the values, behaviours, knowledge and skills of physiotherapists working with people in pain.* CSP, London. UK <http://ppa.csp.org.uk/documents/ppa-physiotherapy-framework-entry-level-graduate-expertdescribing-values-behaviours>

Psychology

6. Standards of proficiency. Practitioner Psychologists. UK, 2015. http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002963SOP_Practitioner_psychologists.pdf
7. Australian Pain Society Position Statement. http://www.apsoc.org.au/PDF/Position_Paper/20160321_APS_Psychology_Position_Statement_MAR16.pdf