Identifying and delineating advanced practice of technicians - Results of a national survey and cluster analysis.

Butnoris M[1,2], Nissen L[2,3], Singleton J[2]

What technicians *should* be doing → **What technicians *are* doing** →

How do we support the development of an advancing scope of practice? →

Aim/Objective - The aim of this

research was to identify and delineate the current practice of advanced-scope technicians. This was supported by objectives: 1.Define the roles and activities that technicians are currently undertaking 2.Compare the extent of advanced-scope activity according demographic factors and workforce variables.

Background – What are technicians doing and how can we best support them?
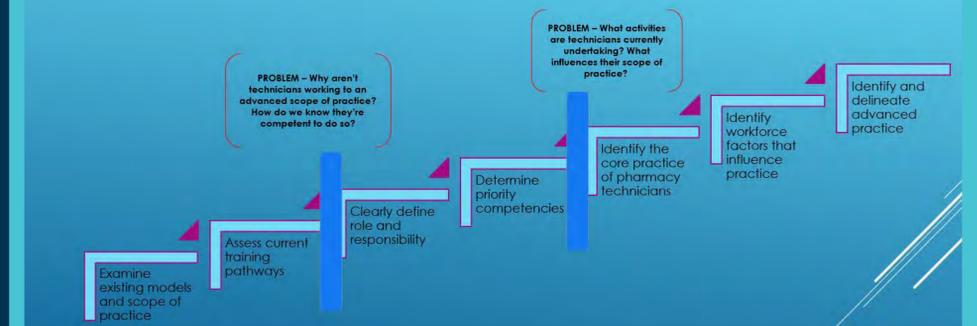
Methods - A quantitative survey was designed to test 88 activities/responsibilities within five

practice domains. A two-step cluster analysis was completed for each domain and the model outcome was assessed in relation to cluster number, quality, size, predictor importance and cluster comparison.

Results and Discussion –

By assessing the model outcomes, the predictor importance variables and comparatively reviewing the 2 identified clusters within each domain, a list of 25 advanced scope activities was identified and delineated from the survey results. For hospital technicians, workforce variables such as qualifications, experience, employment grade had no impact on their participation in advanced scope activities.

Conclusion – Australian Pharmacy technicians ARE working in an advanced scope

capacity, and it has been possible identify tasks that they are undertaking in this practice scope. Despite advocacy work to date, workforce variables such as qualifications did not define their scope of practice. Instead, if a Pharmacy technician is participating in one advanced scope activity, they are more likely to be participating in others. By identifying what technicians are currently doing, it is possible to prioritise a competency framework to continue to support Australian hospital pharmacy technicians.

Author Affiliations: 1 Qld Health, 2 QUT, 3 UQ