

SANDPIPER BAG AGREEMENT



Sandpiper Australia is a charity with the express purpose of equipping rural clinicians with a standardised prehospital bag to support the care of patients with time-critical needs in rural Australia.

Sandpiper Australia requires an undertaking from Sandpiper Bag recipients, as below.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Sandpiper Australia requires that Sandpiper Bag recipients details are logged on our database, including:

- date of receipt of Sandpiper Bag
- confirmation of primary location where Sandpiper Bag will be held
- name & contact details of Sandpiper Bag holder
- confirmation of clinical currency, including AHPRA registration, proof of current emergency credentialing / clinical privileges, proof of relevant training & CPD

We also require a statement of commitment to

- practice according to Sandpiper Australia Guidelines/SOPS and within own scope of clinical practice (as governed by relevant credentialing and AHPRA)
- work to develop relationships with local agencies (ambulance, road crash rescue, retrieval service etc) to improve local emergency response networks
- ensure Sandpiper Bag contents are checked & re-stocked from either personal supply or via relationships with other agencies (typically local hospital, health service or ambulance service)
- return Sandpiper Bag if circumstances change (eg retire, relocate, resign etc)

FOR ORGANISATIONS

Sandpiper Australia recognises that organisations may wish to take ownership of clinical governance for Sandpiper Bag use, under existing protocols (eg PHNs, NACCHOs, ambulance or retrieval services etc)

On this basis, we ask that organisations undertake to maintain a record of Sandpiper Bag holders, ensure they are appropriate credentialed and that bags are maintained appropriately including re-stocking from existing systems. We encourage sharing of bag location not only with Sandpiper Australia, but with local ambulance and other agencies.

Receipt of a bag is underpinned by the governance procedures outlined in this document.

Sandpiper Australia - Clinical Governance Principles

Sandpiper Australia is a charity with the express purpose of supplying standardised prehospital bags to rural clinicians and help address the existing 'trauma gap' between available ambulance resources in rural and arrival of specialist retrieval teams.

The focus is upon equipping clinicians to deliver a limited suite of meaningful interventions appropriate to patient needs and scope-of-practice.

This document outlines broad-brush principles for supply of a Sandpiper Bag.

1. Clinicians have an individual professional responsibility to ensure they are fit to practice in accordance with established AHPRA standards..
2. Clinicians must have current registration with the appropriate designated body (i.e. AHPRA).
3. Clinicians must be able to demonstrate appropriate training in prehospital care, such as existing courses (eg PHTLS, RFDS STAR, CART, PHEC), previous retrieval service induction or other demonstrated experience relevant to prehospital care.
4. Clinicians must be able to demonstrate current credentialing and continuous professional development (CPD) relevant to their role and employment - typically credentialing is under State or Local Health Network control, with CPD lodged with their relevant College
5. Clinicians should operate within their own scope of practice and irrespective of background must only carry out clinical care that sits within their personal skill and competency level. This includes the administration of medicines and performance of practical procedures.
6. Priority for distribution of Sandpiper Bags is given to:
 - 6.1 Rural communities with a need for prehospital care provision by local doctor.
 - 6.2 Clinicians with demonstrated prior experience in provision of prehospital care in rural communities
 - 6.3 Medical practitioners in rural areas who are prepared to provide prehospital care under their existing scope of practice

7. Currently, the following healthcare professionals may become Sandpiper Bag recipient (Sandpiper clinicians):

7.1. General Practitioners (GPs) with demonstrated interest and ongoing commitment to provision of prehospital care in rural communities

7.2 Rural Generalists (RGs) with demonstrated interest and ongoing commitment to provision of prehospital care in rural communities

7.3 Non-RG/non-GP specialists from a relevant acute care speciality (emergency medicine, anaesthetics, intensive care medicine etc)

7.4 Sandpiper Australia recognises that, in certain areas of Australia, Remote Area Nurses (RANs) are already employed to provide primary care and may be called upon to attend prehospital incidents by their employer (Primary Health Network, Remote Area Clinic, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation NACCHO etc). Sandpiper is open to working with such organisations to develop models of care which allow such clinicians to receive a Sandpiper Bag, subject to potential treatment ceilings and scope-of-practice.

8. On receipt of a Sandpiper Bag, clinicians are required to confirm:

8.1 Whether operating under own clinical autonomy (eg private practice GPs, locums, sports event doctors etc) or whether providing services under the aegis of another agency (such as ambulance service, hospital, remote clinic or other employer)

8.2 A commitment to ensuring that Sandpiper Bag contents are checked mostly according to the Sandpiper Bag checklist, with replacement of expired or used stock.

8.3 Willingness to establish suitable frameworks for re-stocking. For individuals in private practice (typically small town GPs or locum doctor) this may be at own cost. Clinicians operating under an arrangement with clinic, hospital, ambulance service or other employer (eg locum agency, primary care entity, retrieval service etc) must be able to ensure that equipment is re-stocked by that organisation.

8.4 That the bag is reserved for use by the clinician or - on rare occasions - their delegate, subject to appropriate training in prehospital care.

8.5 that the clinician will maintain appropriate clinical records for the provision of prehospital care, in keeping with professional standards under AHPRA and, where relevant, employers such as rural hospitals, NACCHOS or other agencies.

8.5 That the Sandpiper Bag is returned if the clinician changes location (eg resigns, retires, relocates)

9. Sandpiper Australia will ensure that:

9.1 Sandpiper Bag recipients are registered on a database, confirming date of bag receipt, current AHPRA registration, appropriate clinical privileges/credentialing, CPD and location where Sandpiper Bag is held

9.2 Sandpiper Bag recipients are provided with a copy of the current 'Sandpiper Clinical Guidelines & Standard Operating Procedures'

9.3 Sandpiper Clinicians are provided with a copy of Sandpiper Bag contents checklist, Sandpiper Bag layout and contact details of a Sandpiper Board mentor as a first port-of-call for support.

9.4 Sandpiper Clinicians will be updated of important changes to recommended kit contents and relevant clinical protocols.

10. Together Sandpiper Australia and Sandpiper Clinicians, along with representative bodies, will work to promote the provision of prehospital care to rural communities and develop suitable systems of care where service gaps exist.

Sandpiper Bag recipients are asked to act as ambassadors for the role of rural clinicians in providing prehospital care to their communities. To further this aim we encourage clinicians to :

10.1 commit to working with local agencies (typically ambulance service, road crash rescue, SES, Local Health Networks, Primary Health Networks etc) to promote the provision of prehospital care by appropriately trained personnel

10.2 forge relationships with local politicians, media, training organisations, professional bodies and other representatives to further this cause

11. Sandpiper Australia recognises that there will be marked jurisdictional and geographical differences in regard to how rural clinicians are utilised and integrated into State or local prehospital systems. The general principles remain to ensure that responses are not 'ad hoc' and are underpinned by appropriate training, with use of standardised equipment by clinicians operating within their scope-of-practice as autonomous health professionals.

AGREEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of a Sandpiper Bag and agrees to the following information being recorded by Sandpiper Australia and to comply with the principles outlined above

Name _____ Postal address _____

Mobile Phone _____ Email address _____

Principle Sandpiper Bag location _____

AHPRA Registration Number _____

Please attach proof of current clinical credentialing, CPD & relevant training in prehospital care

In common with the goals of Sandpiper Australia and Position Statements from the AMA, ACRRM & RDAA, the clinician agrees to ensure the safe provision of prehospital care in rural communities, by working with local emergency services and develop local systems of care as appropriate. The clinician agrees maintain currency in provision of emergency care and operate according to the Guidelines and SOPs as recommended by Sandpiper Australia and other agencies (including local ambulance and retrieval services). The clinician will ensure their Sandpiper Bag is checked and restocked according to the provided Sandpiper Bag checklist, and that the Sandpiper Bag is returned if no longer in use.

Signed _____ Dated _____

[office use only] AHPRA confirmed Credentialing confirmed
 CPD confirmed Training confirmed

AGREEMENT FOR ORGANISATIONS

The undersigned takes responsibility for governance of Sandpiper Bag use, including allocation to employed clinicians, training, re-stocking etc. A register of details will be maintained and shared with Sandpiper Australia. An individualised agreement between Sandpiper Australia and the organisation can be negotiated as needed (eg assessment of suitability, training, recommendations on deployment and guidelines for use of Sandpiper Bags etc), in line with the principles outlined above.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Position _____ Email _____

Contact details _____
