

FACT SHEET 1: STANDARDISED ACCREDITATION CYCLES

Updated October 2018

AHSSQA Scheme

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is responsible under the National Health Reform Act 2011 for the formulation of standards relating to health care safety and quality matters and for formulating and coordinating the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme (the Scheme).

The Commission has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Scheme and produced a series of fact sheets to outline the changes to accreditation processes for health service organisations.

NSQHS Standards (second edition)

The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards were developed by the Commission in collaboration with the Australian Government, states and territories, the private sector, clinical experts, patients and carers. The primary aims of the NSQHS Standards are to protect the public from harm and to improve the quality of health service provision. They provide a quality-assurance mechanism that tests whether relevant systems are in place to ensure expected standards of safety and quality are met.

Health service organisations will transition to the second edition of the NSQHS Standards from January 2019.

From January 2019, health service organisations will move to a three-year assessment cycle, with no further mid-cycle assessments.

Health service organisations will be assessed once every three years, unless they meet the criteria for a repeat assessment (see *Fact Sheet 3—Repeat assessments of health service organisations*).

For health service organisations currently on a four-year cycle, there will be a staged process to allow organisations and accrediting agencies to manage the transition (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Health service organisations currently on a three-year cycle will continue with their scheduled cycle. Any mid-cycle assessments scheduled after 1 January 2019 will not occur (Table 2 and Figure 2).

An accreditation award for the second edition of the NSQHS Standards can be issued for up to three years. Exceptions to this requirements will only be considered on a case by case basis by the Commission.

Health service organisations will be required to complete their assessments before their current accreditation award expires. This means that organisations will need to scheduled assessments at least four months before their accreditation award expires to allow three months (60 business days) for remediation of *not met* actions an initial assessment, and one month (generally 20 business days) for the accrediting agency to complete their final report.

The attached tables and figures provide guidance for health service organisations to determine when their next assessment should be. Organisations should review this information before confirming future assessment dates with their accrediting agency.

Further transition arrangements for health service organisations scheduled to undertake their next assessment in 2019 are outlined in *Fact Sheet 2—Transition arrangements for assessments in 2019*.

Further information

The NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.) and supporting resources are available at nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au

More information on the Commission is available from www.safetyandquality.gov.au

The Advice Centre provides support on implementing the NSQHS Standards for health service organisations, assessors and accrediting agencies.

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Table 1 – transition from four year assessment cycle

My last organisation-wide assessment was in:	Your next assessment will now be scheduled for:	Assessment calculation:
2015	2019	Three-year assessment to start when the next scheduled organisation-wide was due.
2016	2020	Three-year assessment to start when the next scheduled organisation-wide was due.
2017	Between mid-2019 and early 2021	<p>Add six months to the date your mid-cycle was scheduled. This is your start date. You do not undergo a mid-cycle assessment.</p> <p>You have nine months from the start date to schedule an assessment to all eight NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.).</p> <p><u>Example:</u> My organisation wide assessment was in September 2017. I do not have a mid-cycle assessment in September 2019 as scheduled. Instead I schedule an assessment to the second edition as soon as practical between April 2020 and January 2021.</p>
2018	Between mid-2020 and late 2021	<p>Add six months on to the date the mid-cycle was scheduled. This is your start date. You do not undergo a mid-cycle assessment.</p> <p>You have six months from the start date to schedule an assessment to all eight NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.).</p> <p><u>Example:</u> My organisation wide assessment was in March 2018. I do not have a mid-cycle assessment in March 2020. Instead I schedule an assessment to the second edition as soon as practical between October 2020 and April 2021.</p>

Figure 1 – transition timeline from four year assessment cycle

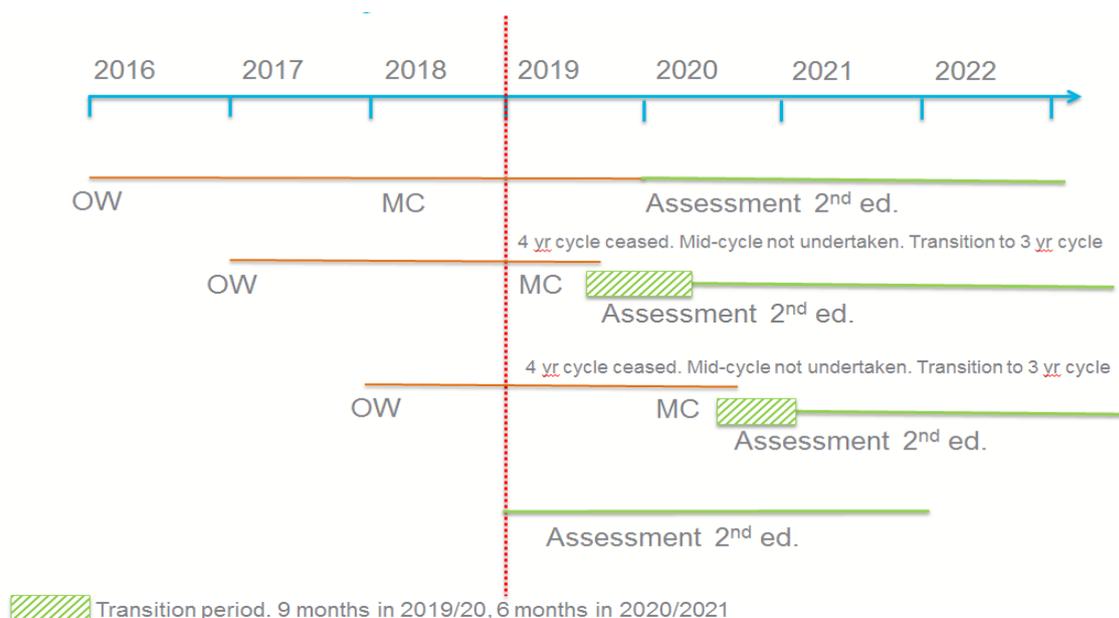


Table 2 – transition from three year assessment cycle

My last organisation-wide assessment was in:	Your next assessment will now be scheduled for:	Assessment calculation:
2016	2019	Your scheduled assessment in 2019 will be to the NSQHS Standards (2 nd ed.).
2017	2020	Your scheduled assessment in 2020 will be to the NSQHS Standards (2 nd ed). If you have a mid-cycle assessment scheduled in 2019 this assessment will not occur.
2018	2021	Your scheduled assessment in 2021 will be to the NSQHS Standards (2 nd ed.). If you have a mid-cycle assessment scheduled in either 2019 or 2020, these assessments will not occur.

Figure 2 – transition timeline from three year assessment cycle

