

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



ADVISORY

TITLE	Notification of significant risk
Advisory number	AS18/09
Version number	1.0
TRIM number	D18-41391
Publication date	December 2018
Replaces	A13/01
Compliance with this advisory	It is mandatory for approved accrediting agencies to implement this Advisory
Information in this advisory applies to	All approved accrediting agencies All health service organisations
Key relationship	All NSQHS Standards
Attachment	n/a
Notes	Linked to the <i>Policy - Approval under the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme to conduct accreditations of health service organisations using the Scheme's standards</i>
Responsible officer	Margaret Banks Director, National Standards Phone: 1800 304 056 Email: accreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au
To be reviewed	December 2022

ADVISORY

AS18/09: Notification of significant risk

PURPOSE:

To describe the requirements for accrediting agencies to notify regulators and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) of significant patient risks identified during the assessment of health service organisations.

ISSUE:

Accrediting agencies have signed declarations as part of the conditions of approval to notify the health service organisation, the relevant regulator and the Commission¹ when a significant patient risk is identified during assessment of a health service organisation.

Ministers have tasked the Commission with the coordination of the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme. This includes receiving information about the assessments of health service organisations, including notification of significant risk.

REQUIREMENTS:

Risk is one where there is a high probability of a substantial and demonstrable adverse impact for patients if the practice is to continue. In each case, a significant risk will be sufficiently serious to warrant an immediate response to reduce the risks to patients. This may include interventions or changes to systems, the clinical care service environment, or clinical practice. While the focus of reporting by assessors will be on significant risks of patient harm, it will not necessarily exclude other significant risks.

Where an assessor identifies one or more significant risks that could result in significant harm to patients while they are onsite in a health service organisation, the following actions are to be taken:

1. Assessors are to notify both the health service organisation and their accrediting agency that a significant patient risk has been identified
2. Assessors and/or the accrediting agency are to discuss immediate action to be taken with the health service organisation and require them to develop a plan of action to remedy the risk
3. The accrediting agency is to notify the relevant regulator and the Commission within 48-hours that a significant patient risk has been identified and provide a copy of the action as soon as practical.

¹ Policy – Approval under the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme to conduct accreditations of health service organisations using the Scheme's standards

Accrediting agencies are to inform their clients and include relevant clauses in any contractual arrangements that information on significant patient risk will be provided to the regulators and the Commission when it is required by regulation or policy of a government agency.