# Australian COmmission on Safety and Quality in Health Care logo with Radar imageOn the Radar

Issue 441

18 November 2019

*On the Radar* is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Inclusion in this document is not an endorsement or recommendation of any publication or provider. Access to particular documents may depend on whether they are Open Access or not, and/or your individual or institutional access to subscription sites/services. Material that may require subscription is included as it is considered relevant.

*On the Radar* is available online, via email or as a PDF or Word document from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/newsletters/radar>

If you would like to receive *On the Radar* via email, you can subscribe on our website <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/newsletters>   
or by emailing us at H[Umail@safetyandquality.gov.auU](mailto:mail@safetyandquality.gov.au).   
You can also send feedback and comments to H[Umail@safetyandquality.gov.auU](mailto:mail@safetyandquality.gov.au).

For information about the Commission and its programs and publications, please visit <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au>

You can also follow us on Twitter @ACSQHC.

**On the Radar**

Editor: Dr Niall Johnson [niall.johnson@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:niall.johnson@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Contributors: Niall Johnson

*Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery*

GIRFT Programme National Speciality Report

Marshall A

London: NHS Improvement; 2019. p. 110.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| URL | <https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ENT-Report-Nov19-L-FINAL.pdf> |
| Notes | The latest report from the UK’s Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme examined ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery. The review team visited 126 units across the UK and report that thousands more patients could be treated on a day-case basis rather than having an overnight stay in hospital. The report includes a number of recommendations that seek to see more patients are treated as day surgery while making ENT departments more resilient to pressures on beds and freeing up beds for use by other specialties. These reports include an explicit examination of variation and a wish to identify high performing units whose approaches can inform others. This report, while looking at all ENT activity, recognises that tonsillectomy accounts for 17% of the total elective workload and around £68m, almost 8%, of the total ENT budget, and thus treats tonsillectomy as a distinct theme as it is considered that the opportunities to improve patient care by reducing variation in this area are significant.  While this report obviously is looking at the UK setting, it may be useful to reflect upon for other settings, perhaps particularly in regard to variation, value and appropriateness (notably from the patient perspective) in areas of variation (for example tonsillectomy and myringotomy) and those where guidance may be lacking (for example, in the UK with regard to septoplasty) |

**Journal articles**

*Potential Unintended Consequences Of Recent Shared Decision Making Policy Initiatives*

Blumenthal-Barby J, Opel DJ, Dickert NW, Kramer DB, Tucker Edmonds B, Ladin K, et al

Health Affairs. 2019;38(11):1876-1881.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00243> |
| Notes | This piece in *Health Affairs*, while appearing to problematise shared decision making (SDM) is not arguing against SDM and its aim. Rather the authors are seeking to raise concerns about how SDM may be implemented. Among the possible unintended consequences they identify are   * Incentivising SDM as an artificially discrete event rather than as a continual characteristic of the clinician-patient relationship * Incentivising hyperindividualistic decision making * Incentivising over-emphasis on information exchange * Implying the patients cannot delegate decisions * Assuming physician neutrality * Ignoring social and public health interests.   It is important that SDM is not a checkbox exercise that pays lip service to the concept and is a genuine discussion and decision that gives the individual agency in reaching decisions appropriate to them and their needs and values. |

For information on the Commission’s work on shared decision making, see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers/shared-decision-making>

*Nationally linked data to improve health services and policy*

Briffa TG, Jorm L, Jackson RT, Reid C, Chew DP

Medical Journal of Australia. 2019;211(9):397-398.e391.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50368> |
| Notes | This Perspectives piece in the *Medical Journal of Australia* adds to the chorus advocating for national data collection/collation/linkage. This piece rehearses the arguments that being able to link health information more effectively can pave the way ‘for improving health services and policy’. Linking health data, including clinical quality registries and other sources, has been argued to improve health care and the authors call for the development of the National Integrated Health Services Information (NIHSI) Analysis Asset with ‘the highest level of governance, management and stewardship of the data’ with ‘the coverage of both public and private health sectors, processes for data linkage to additional datasets such as clinical quality registries and clinical trials, a streamlined and cost‐effective mechanism for access to and use of the data, and the development of “trusted user” status based on the “five safes” principles supported by training and accreditation.’ |

*Hospital-Associated Complications of Older People: A Proposed Multicomponent Outcome for Acute Care*

Mudge AM, McRae P, Hubbard RE, Peel NM, Lim WK, Barnett AG, et al

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 2019;67(2):352-356.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.15662> |
| Notes | (A) Mean length of stay in days. (B) Percentage of participants discharged to facility (continuing, rehabilitation, postacute or new nursing home care). (C) Percentage of participants who died within 6 months of admissionPaper reporting on an effort to develop and validate a new multi-component measure of hospital-associated complications of older people (HACOP). The study was undertaken involving more than 400 older (≥65) patients in acute medical and surgical wards in 4 Queensland hospitals. The multi-component measure included ‘5 well-recognized hospital-associated complications of older people: hospital-associated delirium, functional decline, incontinence, falls, and pressure injuries’ and the study found that 44% of participants had1 or more HAC-OP during their admission. The authors found there was ‘a strong and graded association between HAC-OP and length of stay (9.1±7.4 days for any HAC-OP vs 6.8 ±4.1 days with none, p < .001), facility discharge (59/192 (31%) vs 27/242 (11%), p < .001) and 6-month mortality (26/192 (14%) vs 17/242 (7%), p = .02).’ |

For information on the Commission’s work on hospital-acquired complications (HACs), see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/indicators/hospital-acquired-complications>

*The WHO resolution on sepsis: what action is needed in Australia?*

Schlapbach LJ, Thompson K, Finfer SR

Medical Journal of Australia. 2019;211(9):395-397.e391.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50279> |
| Notes | Perspectives piece in the *Medical Journal of Australia* calling for ‘coordinated action to improve the prevention, diagnosis and management of sepsis in Australia’. The authors argue that while ‘In Australia, the true burden of sepsis is unknown’, it is estimated ‘that there are 18 000 episodes of intensive care unit‐treated sepsis in Australia each year and at least 5000 deaths which disproportionately affect the very young, the very old, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.’ The authors also note that a report from the George Institute for Global Health and the Australian Sepsis Network made four broad recommendations to improve sepsis outcomes in Australia, including:   * Establish a nationally coordinated sepsis body to develop and promulgate a national action plan for sepsis. * Invest in prevention and awareness campaigns targeting both the general community and the health care workforce. * Establish and implement nationally recognised clinical standards for the detection and treatment of sepsis in both adults and children. * Invest in community and peer support services for sepsis survivors and their families. |

*Do Choosing Wisely recommendations about low-value care target income-generating treatments provided by members? A content analysis of 1293 recommendations*

Zadro JR, Farey J, Harris IA, Maher CG

BMC Health Services Research. 2019;19(1):707.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4576-1> |
| Notes | The Choosing Wisely movement has apparently been motivated by desires to reduce low value care and ensure care is appropriate and effective. However, it has been observed that some of the Choosing Wisely recommendations made by some of the participating groups tend to address issues that are somewhat removed from that particular group. That is, they seem to reflect more on the practices of other areas of care, and not necessarily of their members. This paper reports on a more detailed analysis of 1293 recommendations across national Choosing Wisely programs. The analysis seems to suggest that self-criticism is somewhat limited as ‘Many societies provide Choosing Wisely recommendations that minimise impact on their own members. **Only 20% of treatment recommendations target income-generating treatments, and of these recommendations mostly target non-members**. Many recommendations are also qualified. Increasing the number of recommendations from societies that are unqualified and target member clinicians responsible for de-implementation of low-value and costly treatments should be a priority.’ |

*Journal for Healthcare Quality*

Vol. 41, No. 6, November/December 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| URL | <https://journals.lww.com/jhqonline/toc/2019/12000> |
| Notes | A new issue of the *Journal for Healthcare Quality* has been published. Articles in this issue of the *Journal for Healthcare Quality* include:   * Quality of Care and Preventive Screening Use in the **CareFirst Patient-Centered Medical Home Program** (Kicinger, Iwona M; Cuellar, Alison; Helmchen, Lorens A; Gimm, Gilbert; Want, Jay; Kells, B J; Nichols, L M) * Using Lean Performance Improvement for **Patient-Centered Medical Home** Transformation at an Academic Public Hospital (Wu, Shirley; Brown, Christopher; Black, Susan; Garcia, Michael; Harrington, Darrell W.) * **Text Message Quality Improvement Project** for Influenza Vaccine in a Low-Resource Largely Latino Pediatric Population (Sloand, Elizabeth; VanGraafeiland, Brigit; Holm, Annie; MacQueen, Augusta; Polk, Sarah) * A Quality Improvement Project to Improve **Sepsis-Related Outcomes** at an Integrated Healthcare System (Hughes, M Courtney; Roedocker, Andrea; Ehli, Jessica; Walz, Danaka; Froehlich, Kim; White, Landon; Binder, Bill) * **Preoperative Blood Management** Strategy for Elective Hip and Knee Arthroplasty (Kurian, Dinesh J; Guinn, Nicole R; Hunting, John; Gamble, John F; Hopkins, Thomas J; Grimsley, Aime; Guercio, Jason R; Bolognesi, Michael P; Schroeder, Rebecca; Aronson, Solomon) * **Thromboprophylaxis After Hospitalization** for Joint Replacement Surgery (Giuliano, Karen K; Pozzar, Rachel; Hatch, Courtney) * **Diabetic Ketoacidosis Management** in the Emergency Department: Implementation of a Protocol to Reduce Variability and Improve Safety (Griffey, Richard T; Schneider, Ryan M; Malone, Nora; Peterson, Charlie; McCammon, Craig) * Meaningful Use: Does **Physician Participation** Move the Needle on **Quality Metrics**? (Brooks, Kevin; Sarzynski, Erin; Houdeshell-Putt, Laura; Polverento, Molly; Given, Charles; Oberst, Kathleen) * Effectiveness of Implementing a **Predischarge Order to Discharge Patients Before 11 a.m.** (Mallipudi, Rajiv M; Khan, Qamar; Mbolu, George U Jr; Alquran, Lance; Mehta, Bijal; Allusson, Valerie) * An **Antimicrobial Stewardship** Intervention Improves Adherence to Standard of Care for Staphylococcus aureus Bloodstream Infection (Brock, James B; Cretella, David A; Parham, Jason J) * **Outcomes After Rectal Cancer Surgery**: A Population-Based Study Using Quality Indicators (Youl, Philippa; Philpot, Shoni; Theile, David E; for Cancer Alliance Queensland) |

*Nursing Leadership*

Vol. 32, No.3

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| URL | <https://www.longwoods.com/publications/nursing-leadership/25970/1/vol.-32-no.-3-2019> |
| Notes | A new issue of *Nursing Leadership* has been published with the theme “**Nursing Leadership and Palliative Care”**. Articles in this issue of *Nursing Leadership* include:   * Editorial: **Live Until You Die** (Lynn M Nagle) * **Palliative Care Models in Long-Term Care**: A Scoping Review (Sharon Kaasalainen, Tamara Sussman, Lynn McCleary, Genevieve Thompson, Paulette V. Hunter, Abigail Wickson-Griffiths, Rose Cook, Vanina Dal Bello-Haas, Lorraine Venturato, Alexandra Papaioannou, John You and D Parker) * A Stakeholder Analysis of the Strengthening a **Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care Model** (Sharon Kaasalainen, Tamara Sussman, Lynn McCleary, Genevieve Thompson, Paulette V. Hunter, Abigail Wickson-Griffiths, Rose Cook, V D Bello-Haas, L Venturato, A Papaioannou, J You and D Parker) * Toward **Resilient Nurse Leaders**: The Leadership-In-Action Program in Nursing (LEAP-IN) (Christina Clausen, Jessica Emed, Valerie Frunchak, Margaret Purden and Frances Sol Bruno) * **Nurse-Led Models of Care** for Patients with **Complex Chronic Conditions**: A Scoping Review (Kayleigh Gordon, Carolyn Steele Gray, Katie N. Dainty, Jane deLacy and Emily Seto) |

*BMJ Quality and Safety* online first articles

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| URL | <https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent> |
| Notes | *BMJ Quality and Safety* has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:   * Editorial: In the room where it happens: do **physicians** need feedback on their **real-world communication skills**? (Sondra Zabar, Kathleen Hanley, Jeffrey A Wilhite, Lisa Altshuler, Adina Kalet, Colleen Gillespie) * **Communicating with patients about breakdowns in care**: a national randomised vignette-based survey (Kimberly A Fisher, Thomas H Gallagher, Kelly M Smith, Yanhua Zhou, Sybil Crawford, Azraa Amroze, K M Mazor) * Work systems analysis of **sterile processing: decontamination** (Myrtede Alfred, Ken Catchpole, Emily Huffer, Larry Fredendall, Kevin M Taaffe) * **Later emergency provider shift hour is associated with increased risk of admission**: a retrospective cohort study (Patrick D Tyler, Alan Fossa, Joshua W Joseph, Leon D Sanchez) * Large-scale empirical optimisation of statistical control charts to detect clinically relevant increases in **surgical site infection rates** (Iulian Ilieş, Deverick J Anderson, Joseph Salem, Arthur W Baker, Margo Jacobsen, James C Benneyan) * When evidence says no: gynaecologists’ reasons for (not) recommending **ineffective ovarian cancer screening** (Odette Wegwarth, Nora Pashayan) * ‘Whatever you cut, I can fix it’: clinical supervisors’ interview accounts of **allowing** **trainee failure** while guarding patient safety (Jennifer M Klasen, Erik Driessen, Pim W Teunissen, Lorelei A Lingard) |

*International Journal for Quality in Health Care* online first articles

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| URL | <https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles> |
| Notes | *International Journal for Quality in Health Care* has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:   * Quality control circle: a tool for enhancing perceptions of **patient safety culture** among hospital staff in Chinese hospitals (Dan Zhang, Meixia Liao, Yiping Zhou, Tingfang Liu) * The **clinician safety culture and leadership questionnaire**: refinement and validation in Australian public hospitals (Robyn Clay-Williams, Natalie Taylor, Hsuen P Ting, Teresa Winata, Gaston Arnolda, Jeffrey Braithwaite) * Impact of a **national guideline on use of knee arthroscopy**: An interrupted time-series analysis (Ali Kiadaliri, Dan Bergkvist, Leif E Dahlberg, M Englund) * **Patient-reported outcome measurements (PROMs) and provider assessment in mental health**: a systematic review of the context of implementation (David Roe, Yael Mazor, Marc Gelkopf) * **Do performance indicators predict regulator ratings of healthcare providers?** Cross-sectional study of acute hospitals in England (Thomas Allen, Kieran Walshe, Nathan Proudlove, Matt Sutton) * **Deepening our Understanding of Quality in Australia** (DUQuA): An overview of a nation-wide, multi-level analysis of relationships between quality management systems and patient factors in 32 hospitals (Jeffrey Braithwaite, Robyn Clay-Williams, Natalie Taylor, Hsuen P Ting, Teresa Winata, Emily Hogden, Zhicheng Li, Amanda Selwood, M Warwick, P Hibbert, G Arnolda) * Validation of the **patient measure of safety (PMOS) questionnaire** in Australian public hospitals (Natalie Taylor, Robyn Clay-Williams, Hsuen P Ting, Teresa Winata, Gaston Arnolda, Emily Hogden, Rebecca Lawton, Jeffrey Braithwaite) |

**Online resources**

*[UK] Children and young people’s mental health: prevention evidence*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-prevention-evidence>

Public Health England has provided a series of documents following a review of evidence for universal approaches to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The documents include:

* Short descriptions of interventions identified from the synthesis of systematic reviews
* Findings from the synthesis of systematic reviews
* Lay summary report of the synthesis of systematic reviews and grey literature review
* Methodology report of the synthesis of systematic reviews and grey literature review
* Narrative report of the synthesis of systematic reviews and grey literature review
* Report of the findings of a Special Interest Group.

*[UK] NICE Guidelines and Quality Standards*

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

The UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published new (or updated) guidelines and quality standards. The latest reviews or updates are:

* Clinical Guideline CG186 ***Multiple sclerosis*** *in adults: management* <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg186>
* NICE Guideline NG144 ***Cannabis****-based medicinal products* <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng144>

**Disclaimer**

On the Radar is an information resource of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The Commission is not responsible for the content of, nor does it endorse, any articles or sites listed. The Commission accepts no liability for the information or advice provided by these external links. Links are provided on the basis that users make their own decisions about the accuracy, currency and reliability of the information contained therein. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.