

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



## ADVISORY

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Data collection by health service organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic</b>
Advisory number	AS20/02
Version number	2.0
TRIM number	D20-15199
Publication date	September 2020
Replaces	Nil
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 Health service organisations in Victoria and Tasmania
Key relationship	Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standards, NSQHS Standards
Attachment	Nil
Notes	Nil
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To be reviewed	December 2020



# **ADVISORY**

## **AS20/02: Data collection by health service organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic**

### **PURPOSE:**

To clarify specific requirements for data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic by individual states and territories.

### **ISSUE:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the day-to-day operations of health service organisations in an unprecedented way. While recognising the current demands on health service organisations, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) strongly supports the continued implementation of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards during this time.

The Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection Standard of NSQHS Standards includes Action 3.4 which states:

The health service organisation has a surveillance strategy for healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use that:

- a. Collects data on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use relevant to the size and scope of the organisation
- b. Monitors, assesses and uses surveillance data to reduce the risks associated with healthcare-associated infections and supports appropriate antimicrobial prescribing
- c. Reports surveillance data on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use to the workforce, the governing body, consumers and other relevant groups.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some state and territory regulators advised the Commission that they did not require health service organisations in their jurisdiction to collect selected routine data sets, as a consequence this information may not be available as evidence of compliance with Action 3.4 at future assessments to the NSQHS Standards.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

For the period 25 March 2020 until the commencement of assessments or a date specified by the regulator, health service organisations and accrediting agencies are required to refer to the advice in this Advisory, in relation to data collection as evidence of compliance with Action 3.4. This approach has been agreed by state and territory regulators.

Please refer to [Advisory AS20/01](#) for requirements for hand hygiene audits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Victoria

Health service organisations in Victoria are not required to collect the following data sets between 1 April to 31 December 2020:

- Central line-associated bloodstream infection in Intensive Care Units
- *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia
- Surgical site infection (all procedures)
- Hand hygiene practice compliance rates (please refer to [AS20/01: Advice on hand hygiene audit requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) for further details)

## Tasmania

Health service organisations in Tasmania are not required to report healthcare-associated infection (HAI) surveillance data sets into national data collections during March to 30 September 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic- with the exception of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia data, which will be collated by the Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit.

Reporting of HAI surveillance data sets will recommence 1 October 2020.

Tasmanian health service organisations may apply for a temporary exemption after 1 October 2020 to Action 3.4 where data collection has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Written application for exemptions are to be forwarded to the Commission. A determination will be made in consultation with the organisation's regulator.

## Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia

Apart from requirements for Advisory AS20/01, data collection requirements for surveillance (Action 3.4) remain unchanged for health service organisations in these states and territories.

Health service organisations from all other states and territories may apply for a temporary exemption to Action 3.4 where data collection has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Written application for exemptions are to be forwarded to the Commission. A determination will be made in consultation with the organisation's regulator.