On the Radar

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On the Radar
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Reports

Australia's Health Reimagined: The journey to a connected and confident consumer
Deloitte, Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre, Consumers Health Forum of Australia, Curtin University
2022. p. 24.

URL	https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/life-sciences-health-care/deloitte-au-lshc-australias-health-reimagined-report-02032022.pdf
Notes	The brief "whitepaper" stems from a collaborative Digital Health CRC research project between Curtin University, the Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) and Deloitte. The project (and this document) included 'a review of virtual health academic literature and a consumer survey.' The paper seeks to present 'the purpose, path and principles to deliver a digitally enabled future health system – one that benefits all Australians and removes barriers to accessing healthcare.'

For information on the Commission's work on partnering with consumers, see
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers

Journal articles

Inappropriate antibiotic prescribing: understanding clinicians' perceptions to enable changes in prescribing practices
Laka M, Milazzo A, Merlin T
Australian Health Review 2022;46:21-7.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1071/AH21197
Notes	The wish to ensure antimicrobial/antibiotics are used appropriately has gained increasing interest in recent years, including the issue of antimicrobial resistance. This paper reports on a survey of 180 clinicians on perceived barriers to appropriate antibiotic prescribing. The survey revealed that 'diagnostic uncertainty and limited access to guidelines and prescribing information were significant barriers to appropriate antibiotic prescribing. Factors associated with these barriers were clinical experience, care setting (hospitals vs primary care) and the use of guidelines.'

Antimicrobial Prescribing in a Regional Hospital: Impact on Prescribing Through Collaboration with an On-Site Clinical Pharmacy Service
Tantiongco M DP, Kowalski S
Clinical Audit 2022;14:31-9.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.2147/CA.S347799
Notes	The authors of this piece observe that ': Antimicrobial stewardship programs are critical for promoting and monitoring judicious use of antimicrobials; however, there are many well-established barriers to their effective implementation in the rural setting.' Here they report on a study that examined the impact of implementing a clinical pharmacy service on antimicrobial prescribing in a rural GP-led hospital in regional Australia. This was a retrospective case series audit of pre- and post-implementation of a new clinical pharmacy service. All adult patients who presented with sepsis, cellulitis, urinary tract infections and pneumonia between May and August 2015 and repeated for the same months in 2018 were included. The audit found that 'Appropriate prescribing increased from 57% (66/115) in 2015 to 82% (129/158) in 2018 (P=0.001). Ceftriaxone was the most inappropriately prescribed antimicrobial. The cost of antimicrobial therapy was halved from $10.00 to $5.33 per patient day, pre- and post-implementation of a clinical pharmacy service, respectively.'

For information on the Commission's work on antimicrobial stewardship, including the *Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care* publication, see https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/antimicrobial-stewardship
A recent addition to the *Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care* book was a chapter on "Antimicrobial stewardship in rural and remote hospitals and health services".

Implementation of an Antibiotic Stewardship Program in Long-term Care Facilities Across the US
Katz MJ, Tamma PD, Cosgrove SE, Miller MA, Dullabh P, Rowe TA, et al
JAMA Network Open 2022;5:e220181-e.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0181
Notes	Antimicrobial stewardship has been considered an important means by which to provide more appropriate use of these important resources. This paper reports on a study of 439 nursing homes in the USA who engaged in a quality improvement program using the US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use. The authors report that participation 'associated with a reduction in antibiotic use and urine culture collection. Fluoroquinolones, an antibiotic class targeted by the AHRQ safety program, had the greatest decrease.'

Understanding and Communicating Uncertainty in Achieving Diagnostic Excellence
Dahm MR, Crock C
JAMA 2022 [epub].

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2022.2141
Notes	This is the latest in *JAMA*'s series on diagnostic excellence. This piece picks up on the key issue of uncertainty and how that figures in the diagnostic process and the challenges of communicating uncertainty. Uncertainty is something of a recurring theme in *On the Radar* as it has appeared regularly from 2011 through to today. Here there is consideration of that uncertainty from both the clinician and patient perspective, before discussion of how to both manage and communicate uncertainty. The piece ends with exhortation 'To effectively manage the complexity and challenges of the diagnostic process, clinicians and patients need to find approaches to address uncertainty. Acknowledging, embracing, and communicating uncertainty opens diagnostic possibilities and a way toward achieving diagnostic excellence.'

What problems in health care quality should we target as the world burns around us?
Shojania KG
Canadian Medical Association Journal 2022;194:E311.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.220134
Notes	Fires, floods, pandemics and all the other problems of our lives can sometimes make focusing on quality of care difficult. This piece suggests that returns on research and knowledge translation aimed at quality and the 'The mainstream approach to improving health care quality amounts to eking out marginal increases in the delivery of care.' The suggestion here is that: • 'Efforts in quality improvement might better focus on increasing resilience of the health system and devising better models of care.' • Efforts to address social determinants of health would offer larger impacts on health care quality and population health.'

Public Health Research & Practice
Volume 32 Issue 1, March 2022

URL	https://www.phrp.com.au/issues/march-2022-volume-32-issue-1/
Notes	A new issue of *Public Health Research & Practice* has been published with the theme 'The skin cancer capital of the world: tackling Australia's ongoing public health challenge'. Articles in this issue of *Public Health Research & Practice* include: • Editorial: **Skin cancer** – time for national leadership to meet critical challenges ahead (Paige Preston, Craig Sinclair, Anne E Cust, Catherine M Olsen) • Forty years of Slip! Slop! Slap! A call to action on **skin cancer prevention** for Australia (Heather Walker, Clover Maitland, Tamara Tabbakh, Paige Preston, Melanie Wakefield, Craig Sinclair) • The **economics of skin cancer prevention** with implications for Australia and New Zealand: where are we now? (Louisa G Gordon, Sophy Shih, Caroline Watts, David Goldsbury, Adèle C Green) • **Keratinocyte cancer incidence in Australia**: a review of population-based incidence trends and estimates of lifetime risk (Catherine M Olsen, Nirmala Pandeya, Adele C Green, Bruna S Ragaini, Alison J Venn, David C Whiteman) • **Early detection of skin cancer** in Australia – current approaches and new opportunities (Monika Janda, Catherine M Olsen, Victoria J Mar, A E Cust) • Review of **sun exposure guidance** documents in Australia and New Zealand (Christina Verma, Jessica Lehane, Rachel E Neale, Monika Janda)

	- Effectiveness, compliance and application of **sunscreen for solar ultraviolet radiation protection** in Australia (Stuart I Henderson, Kerryn L King, Ken K Karipidis, Rick A Tinker, Adele C Green) - **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health** checks: sociodemographic characteristics and cardiovascular risk factors (Danielle C Butler, Jason Agostino, Ellie Paige, Rosemary J Korda, Kirsty A Douglas, V Wade, E Banks) - Assessing cultural appropriateness of **patient-reported outcome measures for Aboriginal people with diabetes**: study protocol (Alicia Burgess, Jessica Hawkins, Catherine Kostovski, Kerith Duncanson) - Renewal of the **National Cervical Screening Program**: health professionals' knowledge about screening of specific populations in NSW, Australia (Sally O Sweeney, Yan Cheng, Jessica R Botfield, Deborah J Bateson) - Alternatives to low birthweight as a population-level **indicator of infant and child health** (Daneeta Hennessy, Siranda Torvaldsen, Jason P Bentley, Jennifer R Bowen, Helen A Moore, Christine L Roberts) - **Blood lead levels among Broken Hill children** born 2009–2015: a longitudinal study to inform prevention strategies (David M Lyle, Frances T Boreland, Stephen J Quartermain) - Integrating **shade provision** into the healthy built environment agenda: the approach taken in NSW, Australia (Elizabeth L King, Susan Thompson, Nicola Groskops) - A dermoscopy training program for Victorian GPs to improve **skin cancer prevention and detection** (Shannon M Jones, Heather Walker, C Maitland)

Health Affairs
Volume 41, Number 3 (March 2022)

URL	https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/41/3
Notes	A new issue of *Health Affairs* has been published with the themes "**Hospitals, Health Equity**, And More". Articles in this issue of *Health Affairs* include: - Raising The Stakes To Advance Equity In **Black Maternal Health** (Michele Cohen Marill) - **Hospital Service Offerings** Still Differ Substantially By Ownership Type (Jill R Horwitz, and Austin Nichols) - **Reductions In Hospitalizations Among Children** Referred To A Primary Care–Based Medical-Legal Partnership (Andrew F Beck, Adrienne W Henize, TingTing Qiu, Bin Huang, Yin Zhang, Melissa D Klein, Donita Parrish, Elaine E Fink, and Robert S Kahn) - Legislation Increased **Medicare Telestroke Billing**, But Underbilling And Erroneous Billing Remain Common (Andrew D Wilcock, Lee H Schwamm, Jose R Zubizarreta, Kori S Zachrison, Lori Uscher-Pines, Jennifer J Majersik, Jessica V Richard, and Ateev Mehrotra) - Disparities In Uptake Of **HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis** Among California Medicaid Enrollees (Nina T Harawa, Diane Tan, and Arleen A Leibowitz) - Despite The FDA's Five-Year Plan, **Black Patients Remain Inadequately Represented In Clinical Trials** For Drugs (Angela K Green, Niti Trivedi, Jennifer J Hsu, Nancy L Yu, Peter B Bach, and Susan Chimonas) - Three-Year Impact Of Stratification In The **Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program** (Sukruth A Shashikumar, R J Waken, Rahul Aggarwal, Rishi K Wadhera, and Karen E Joynt Maddox)

	Multicancer Screening Tests: Anticipating And Addressing Considerations For Payer Coverage And Patient Access (Patricia A Deverka, Michael P Douglas, and Kathryn A Phillips) - Evaluating A **Nonemergency Medical Transportation Benefit** For Accountable Care Organization Members (Seth A Berkowitz, Katharine Ball Ricks, Jingyan Wang, Morgan Parker, Ram Rimal, and Darren A DeWalt) **Physician Practices With Robust Capabilities Spend Less On Medicare Beneficiaries** Than More Limited Practices (Hector P Rodriguez, Elizabeth L Ciemins, Karl Rubio, and Stephen M Shortell) - The Effect Of **Clinician Feedback Interventions On Opioid Prescribing** (Amol S Navathe, Joshua M Liao, Xiaowei S Yan, M Kit Delgado, William M Isenberg, Howard M Landa, Barbara L Bond, Dylan S Small, Charles A L Rareshide, Zijun Shen, R S Pepe, F Refai, V J Lei, K G Volpp, and M S Patel) - The Effectiveness Of Government **Masking Mandates On COVID-19** County-Level Case Incidence Across The United States, 2020 (Jing Huang, Brian T Fisher, Vicky Tam, Zi Wang, Lihai Song, Jiasheng Shi, Caroline La Rochelle, Xi Wang, Jeffrey S Morris, Susan E Coffin, and David M Rubin) **Strengthening Health Systems To Face Pandemics**: Subnational Policy Responses To COVID-19 In Latin America (Felicia Marie Knaul, Michael M Touchton, Hector Arreola-Ornelas, Renzo Calderon-Anyosa, Silvia Otero-Bahamón, Calla Hummel, Pedro Pérez-Cruz, Thalia Porteny, Fausto Patino, Rifat Atun, Patricia J Garcia, Jorge Insua, Oscar Mendez, E Undurraga, C Boulding, J Nelson-Nuñez, V. X V Guachalla, and M Sanchez-Talanquer) - Surviving **Two Pandemics** (Richard Sorian)

BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	*BMJ Quality &Safety* has published a number of 'online first' articles, including: - Safety implications of **remote assessments for suspected COVID-19**: qualitative study in UK primary care (Sietse Wieringa, Ana Luisa Neves, Alexander Rushforth, E Ladds, L Husain, T Finlay, C Pope, T Greenhalgh) - Effects of **tall man lettering** on the visual behaviour of critical care nurses while identifying syringe drug labels: a randomised in situ simulation (Quentin Lohmeyer, Cornel Schiess, Pedro David Wendel Garcia, Heidi Petry, Eric Strauch, Andreas Dietsche, R A Schuepbach, P K Buehler, D A Hofmaenner) - The problem with 'My Five Moments for **Hand Hygiene**' (Dinah Gould, Edward Purssell, Annette Jeanes, Nicolas Drey, Jane Chudleigh, J McKnight)

Online resources

[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:
- NICE Guideline NG213 *Disabled children and young people up to 25 with severe complex needs: integrated service delivery and organisation across health, social care and education* https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng213
- NICE Guideline NG191 *COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19* https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191
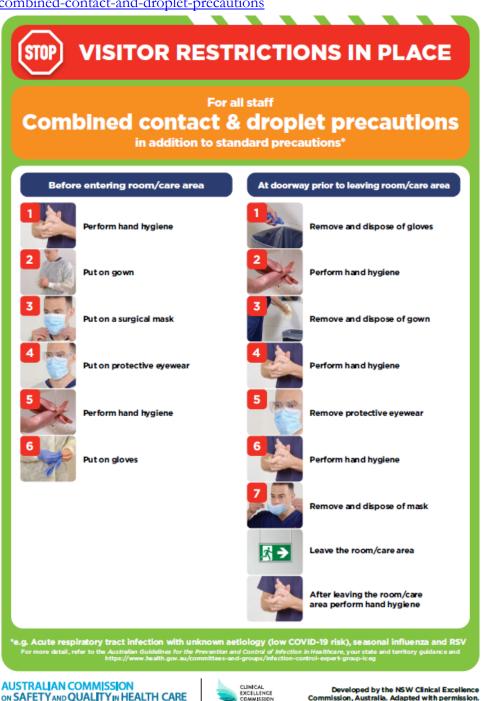
COVID-19 resources

https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a number of resources to assist healthcare organisations, facilities and clinicians. These and other material on COVID-19 are available at https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19

These resources include:

- *OVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance

- *Poster – Combined contact and droplet precautions*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-combined-contact-and-droplet-precautions

- *Poster – Combined airborne and contact precautions*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-combined-airborne-and-contact-precautions

- *Environmental Cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control*
  www.safetyandquality.gov.au/environmental-cleaning
- *COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management – Guidance*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance
- *Safe care for people with cognitive impairment during COVID-19*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-and-covid-19
- *Stop COVID-19: Break the chain of infection* poster
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-infection-poster-a3

- *FAQs for clinicians on elective surgery* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5724
- *FAQs for consumers on elective surgery* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5725
- *COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-face-masks-information-consumers

National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce
https://covid19evidence.net.au/
The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce is a collaboration of peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19. The taskforce is undertaking continuous evidence surveillance to identify and rapidly synthesise emerging research in order to provide national, **evidence-based guidelines and clinical flowcharts for the clinical care of people with COVID-19**. The guidelines address questions that are specific to managing COVID-19 and cover the full disease course across mild, moderate, severe and critical illness. These are 'living' guidelines, updated with new research in near real-time in order to give reliable, up-to-the minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented global health crisis.

COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit
https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/critical-intelligence-unit
The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) in New South Wales has developed this page summarising rapid, evidence-based advice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its operations focus on systems intelligence, clinical intelligence and evidence integration. The content includes a daily evidence digest, a COVID status monitor, a risk monitoring dashboard and evidence checks on a discrete topic or question relating to the current COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a 'Living evidence' section summarising key studies and emerging evidence on **COVID-19 vaccines** and **SARS-CoV-2 variants**. The most recent updates include:

- *Budesonide and aspirin for pregnant women with COVID-19* – What is the evidence for the use of Budesonide for pregnant women with COVID-19? What is the evidence for aspirin prophylaxis for pre-eclampsia in pregnant women with a COVID-19 infection?
- *Omicron (BA.2 sub-lineage)* – What is the available evidence for the BA.2 sub-lineage of the Omicron variant of concern?
- *COVID-19 vaccines in Australia* – What is the evidence on COVID-19 vaccines in Australia?
- *COVID-19 pandemic and wellbeing of critical care and other healthcare workers* – Evidence in brief on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of critical care and other healthcare workers.
- *Surgery post COVID-19* – What is the evidence for the timing of surgery, and outcomes following surgery, for people who have recovered from COVID-19?
- Show summary | Download full Evidence Check (PDF 189 KB)
- *Disease modifying treatments for COVID-19 in children* – What is the evidence for disease modifying treatments for COVID-19 in children?
- *Mask type for COVID-19 positive wearer* – What is the evidence for different mask types for COVID-19 positive wearers?
- *Post acute and subacute COVID-19 care* – What published advice and models of care are available regarding post-acute and subacute care for COVID-19 patients?
- *Hospital visitor policies* – What is the evidence for hospital visitor policies during and outside of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- *Surgical masks, eye protection and PPE guidance* –What is the evidence for surgical masks in the endemic phase in hospitals and for eyewear to protect against COVID-19?