On the Radar

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On the Radar
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National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Guide for Healthcare Services consultation
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/primary-and-community-healthcare/guide-primary-and-community-healthcare-standards

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is seeking feedback on the draft *National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare Standards Guide for Health Services* (the Guide). Feedback for the Guide is closing soon on **28 February 2023**.

The Guide provides support for healthcare services implementing the National Safety and Quality Primary and Community Healthcare Standards. It includes practical guidance and examples of evidence that can be used to implement the actions in a way that is appropriate to the healthcare service.

Visit the Commission's website at https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/primary-and-community-healthcare before **28 February 2023** to review the Guide and provide feedback by completing the online survey, or providing a written submission via pchs@safetyandquality.gov.au

For questions on the Primary and Community Healthcare Standards please contact the Commission's Safety and Quality Advice Centre at AdviceCentre@safetyandquality.gov.au

Reports

Electronic prescribing systems in hospitals to improve medication safety: a multimethods research programme
Sheikh A, Coleman J, Chuter A, Williams R, Lilford R, Slee A, et al
Programme Grants for Applied Research. 2022;10(7).

DOI	https://doi.org/10.3310/KSRS2009
Notes	This 196-page report comes from a (UK) National Institute for Health and Care Research funded project that 'sought to describe the procurement, implementation and adoption of basic and advanced ePrescribing systems; to estimate their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness; and to develop a toolkit for system integration into hospitals'. Based on six longitudinal case studies that included 242 interviews and 32.5 hours of observations, the authors report 'Implementation was difficult, particularly in relation to integration and interfacing between systems.' However, while implementation posed challenges, the authors found 'when fully implemented the **ePrescribing systems were associated with a reduction in clinically important prescribing errors** and our model suggests that such an effect is likely to be more cost-effective when clinical decision support is available. Careful system configuration considering clinical processes and workflows is important to achieving these potential benefits and, therefore, our findings may not be generalisable to all system implementations.'

| | The research project also produced an NHS ePrescribing Toolkit that is available at https://www.eprescribingtoolkit.com/ |

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

For information on the Commission's work on electronic medication management, including the
Electronic Medication Management Systems – A guide to safe implementation, see
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/electronic-medication-management

Journal articles

Indication documentation and indication-based prescribing within electronic prescribing systems: a systematic review and narrative synthesis
Feather C, Appelbaum N, Darzi A, Franklin BD
BMJ Quality & Safety. 2023 [epub].

DOI	http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjqs-2022-015452
Notes	The issue of whether the indication for a medication (clinical reason for prescribing) should be documented has been considered as a safety-enhancing mechanism. By documenting the indication, the prescribing clinician provides other members of the clinical team with the reason for their decision. This allows the pharmacist, nurse or other clinician to confirm that the medication is appropriate. The documentation of indication has been used when it comes to antimicrobials. This study sought to 'identify, describe and synthesise the literature relating to effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving indication documentation and/or indication-based prescribing in both primary and secondary healthcare' and then identify barriers and facilitators to these interventions and make recommendations for both practice and research. From the examination of 21 studies, the authors report '**Indication documentation has the potential to improve appropriate prescribing and reduce prescribing errors**.' They also observe, 'However, further benefits to the prescriber, multidisciplinary team and patient may only be realised by developing methods of indication documentation that integrate more efficiently with prescriber workflows.'

Association Between Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs and Antibiotic Use Globally: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Zay Ya K, Win PTN, Bielicki J, Lambiris M, Fink G
JAMA Network Open. 2023;6(2):e2253806-e2253806.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.53806
Notes	Paper reporting on a systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature on antibiotic stewardship that covered 52 studies involving more than 1.7 million patients in a both high-income (40 studies) and low to middle income (12 studies) nations. The principal question that the study sough to address was 'What is the association between antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) implemented across multiple health care settings and antibiotic use?' The findings reported include that ASPs were associated with: • a 10% (95% CI, 4%-15%) reduction in antibiotic prescriptions • a 28% reduction in antibiotic consumption (rate ratio, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.56-0.92) • a 21% (95% CI, 5%-36%) reduction in antibiotic consumption in pediatric hospitals

	• a 28% reduction in World Health Organization watch groups antibiotics (rate ratio, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.56-0.92).
	The authors report that '**ASPs were associated with reduced consumption of antibiotics overall** as well as of antibiotics in the World Health Organization Watch group.' They conclude that 'The findings of this study support the use of ASPs to reduce antibiotic use in both hospital and nonhospital settings'

For information on the Commission's work on antimicrobial stewardship, including the *Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care* book, see https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/antimicrobial-stewardship

Australian Journal of Primary Health
Volume 29, Number 1, February 2023

URL	https://www.publish.csiro.au/py/issue/11374
Notes	A new issue of the *Australian Journal of Primary Health* has been published. Articles in this issue of the *Australian Journal of Primary Health* include: • A **framework for conducting policy-relevant primary care research**: a COVID-19 case study in Australia (Judith Thomas, Chisato Imai, Gorkem Sezgin, Rae-Anne Hardie, Stephen Weeding, Christopher Pearce, Adam McLeod, Precious McGuire, Shirmilla Datta, Julie Li, Nasir Wabe, Guilherme S. Franco, Zhaoli Dai, Gihan de Mel, Emma Gault, Muhammad Kashif Sheikh and Andrew Georgiou) • The development of Future Health Today: piloting a new platform for **identification and management of chronic disease in general practice** (Barbara Hunter, Karyn Alexander, Ruby Biezen, Christine Mary Hallinan, Anna Wood, Craig Nelson and Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis) • **Cancer screening in prisons**: lessons for health providers (Sarah Hesse, Kim Williamson, Deborah Bonney, Marie Finley and Tom Meehan) • Uptake of **Team Care Arrangements for adults newly diagnosed with cancer** (Oscar Perez-Concha, David Goldstein, Mark F Harris, Maarit A Laaksonen, Mark Hanly, Sue Suchy and Claire M Vajdic) • Enhancing interprofessional practice through the co-design of a holistic culturally and developmentally informed **First Nations child health assessment** (Natasha Reid, Wei Liu, Shirley Morrissey, Marjad Page, Theresa McDonald, Erinn Hawkins, Andrew Wood, Michelle Parker-Tomlin, Grace Myatt, Heidi Webster, Bridget Greathead, Doug Shelton, Sarah Horton, Mary Katsikitis and Dianne Shanley) • Engaging with a **rural Aboriginal community to identify strategies to improve oral health** within their community: a qualitative study (David Walker, Anna Tynan, Taygan Tucker, Barry Fisher and Tarita Fisher) • 'We are largely left out': **workplace and psychosocial experiences of Australian general practitioners during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic** (Allen Gu, Karen Willis, Margaret Kay, Kathryn Hutt and Natasha Smallwood) • **General wellbeing and work impacts among community pharmacists** during crisis management (Hanan Khalil, Chaojie Liu, Leila Karimi, J Adamm Ferrier, Zhanming Liang and Sandra Leggat) • **Older adults' experiences of a community wellness program (Connect 60+)** that focused on physical activity and social connections: a qualitative

	exploratory study (Tammy Weselman, Chiara Naseri, Sharmila Vaz, Janet Beilby, Luke Garswood, Hilary O'Connell and Anne-Marie Hill)
	• **Partial meal replacement for people with type 2 diabetes**: 2-year outcomes from an Australian general practice (Chee L Khoo, Ritesh Chimoriya, David Simmons and Milan K Piya)
	• **Cost-sharing reduction and health service utilisation, health-related lifestyles, and obesity**: evidence from the Australian health concession card policy (Qin Zhou and Wei Du)
	• **Community antibiotic management of skin infections** in the Torres Strait (Allison Hempenstall, Pelista Pilot, Malcolm McDonald, Simon Smith and Josh Hanson)

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: • **Indication documentation and indication-based prescribing** within electronic prescribing systems: a systematic review and narrative synthesis (Calandra Feather, Nicholas Appelbaum, Ara Darzi, Bryony Dean Franklin) • **Patient safety and hospital visiting at the end of life during COVID-19** restrictions in Aotearoa New Zealand: a qualitative study (Aileen Collier, Deborah Balmer, Eileen Gilder, Rachael Parke)

Online resources

Future Leaders Communiqué
Volume 8 Issue 1 January 2022
https://www.thecommuniques.com/post/future-leaders-communiqu%C3%A9-volume-8-issue-1-january-2023
This issue of *Future Leaders Communiqué* focuses on a case study of a patient who died following an elective neurosurgical operation. This issue reflects on the challenges faced by junior doctors engaging in locum work and the chain of communication in medical imaging reports. The editorial observes 'Locum work is a perfect stress-test on a number of key healthcare systems: orientation programs, assessment and management protocols; escalation pathways for the deteriorating patient; the communication systems for clinical data. Without robust systems in place, essential clinical practices will inevitably falter when faced with a rapid turnover of staff.'

[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 include:
- Clinical Guideline CG181 *Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification* https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg181
- Quality Standard QS22 *Antenatal care* https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs22
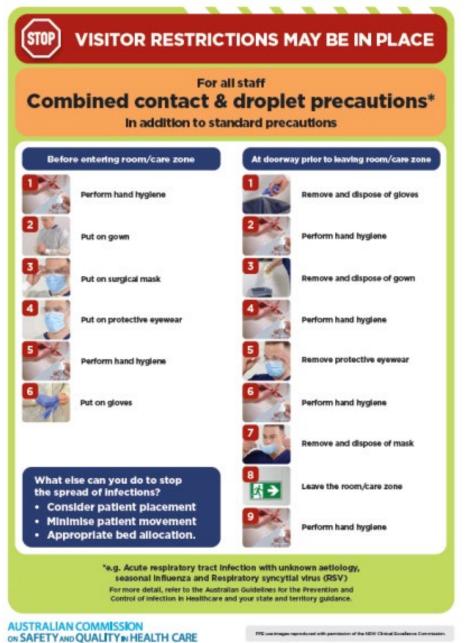- Quality Standard QS90 *Urinary tract infections* in adults https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs90

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* This primer provides an overview of three widely used tools for investigating and responding to patient safety events and near misses. Tools covered in this primer include incident reporting systems, Root Cause Analysis (RCA), and Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA). 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/infection-prevention-and-control-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

- *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:

- *Current and emerging patient safety issues during COVID-19* – What is the evidence on the current and emerging patient safety issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic?
- *Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines* – What is the available regulatory and research evidence for bivalent COVID-19 vaccines?
- *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?
- *Paxlovid* – What is the evidence for Paxlovid for treatment of COVID-19?
- *Molnupiravir* –What is the evidence for and regulatory context of molnupiravir for treatment of COVID-19?
- *Eating disorders and COVID-19* – What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prevalence of eating disorders?
- *Long COVID –* What is the evidence on the prevalence, presentation and management of long-COVID?
- *Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) use in healthcare settings* – What is the evidence that use of oseltamivir in healthcare workers with a symptomatic influenza diagnosis result in an earlier return to work and reduced absenteeism? What is the evidence that use of oseltamivir in adults and children with symptomatic influenza reduces influenza transmission in health care settings?
- *Alternative models of care for acute medical conditions* – What is the evidence on alternative models of care for managing patients with acute medical conditions outside of emergency or inpatient hospital settings?
- *Exercise and long COVID* – Is exercise helpful in individuals with long COVID? Is post-exertional symptom exacerbation a risk in long COVID?
- *Influenza and seasonal prophylaxis with oseltamivir* – What is the place or evidence for seasonal influenza prophylaxis (such as taking oseltamivir for 10 to 12 weeks continuously) in healthcare and aged care settings?
- *Rapid access models of care for respiratory illnesses* – What is the evidence for rapid access models of care for respiratory illnesses, especially during winter seasons, in emergency departments?
- *Post-acute sequelae of COVID-19* – What is the evidence on the post-acute sequelae of COVID-19?

- *Emerging variants* – What is the available evidence for emerging variants?
- *Chest pain or dyspnoea following COVID-19 vaccination* – What is evidence for chest pain or dyspnoea following COVID-19 vaccination?
- *Cardiac investigations and elective surgery post-COVID-19* – What is evidence for cardiac investigations and elective surgery post-COVID-19?
- *Breathlessness post COVID-19* – How to determine those patients who present with ongoing breathlessness in need of urgent review or intervention due to suspected pulmonary embolus?
- *COVID-19 pandemic and influenza* – What is the evidence for COVID-19 pandemic and influenza?
- *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?
- *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.
- *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?