Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar



On the Radar

Issue 770
23 November 2026

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/news-and-media/newsletters/on-the-radar

If you would like to receive *On the Radar* via email, you can subscribe on our website https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/news-and-media/newsletters/on-the-radar or by emailing us at mail@safetyandquality.gov.au.
You can also send feedback and comments to mail@safetyandquality.gov.au.

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

On the Radar
Editor: Dr Niall Johnson
Contributors: Niall Johnson

Reports

The Invisible Epidemic of Low Value Healthcare: Why we must put patients first.
Beamtree Global Impact Committee
Sydney: Beamtree; 2026.

URL	https://beamtree.com.au/papers-publications/the-invisible-epidemic-of-low-value-healthcare/
Notes	Report from an Australian-based health analytics company, Beamtree, examining the issue of low value care. The report comes from their 'Global Impact Committee' – a collection of (former) health executives, leaders and policy specialist from various countries, including Australia and examine the 'epidemic of low value care'. It is observed that 'Low value care provides little or no benefit to patients according to the best available evidence, is likely to cause more harm than good, and is too expensive given its outcomes.' The report examines some of the evidence and work done on low value care, including atlases of healthcare variation, initiatives such as Getting It Right First Time and Choosing Wisely, various interventions and strategies that may considered at various scales. The report's authors argue that 'A significant reduction in low value care would enable health systems to deliver more care from the same resources, reduce patient harm, shorten waiting times for treatment, improve staff satisfaction by enabling them to use their time more productively and reduce waste and environmental impact.' As is noted in the Beamtree report, value is one of the aspects of healthcare variation. It is also a key element to the Commission's Better Care Everywhere initiative.

The use of lithium for bipolar disorder
Investigation report
Health Services Safety Investigation Body
Poole: HSSIB; 2026

URL	https://www.hssib.org.uk/patient-safety-investigations/the-prescribing-of-lithium-for-bipolar-disorder/investigation-report/
Notes	The latest report from the Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) in the UK examines the use of lithium in treating bipolar disorder in the UK. It is noted that the report 'is intended for healthcare organisations, policymakers and the public to help improve patient safety in relation to the use of lithium as a treatment for people with bipolar disorder' in the UK. A patient safety issue had been highlighted to the HSSIB that some people with diagnosed bipolar disorder were not being offered lithium as a treatment option. The investigation explored the factors that influence whether lithium is considered, offered and prescribed for adults with diagnosed bipolar disorder. The report includes findings, recommendations, observations, actions and learnings that are applicable at various levels.

The role of the workforce in the shift to prevention
Ross S, Gilburt H, Chikwira L, Bottery S, Wills E
London: The Kings Fund; 2026.

What does prevention look like in practice?
Ross S, Chikwira L
London: The Kings Fund; 2026.

URL	https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/projects/the-role-of-the-workforce-in-the-shift-to-prevention https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/what-prevention-look-like-practice

Notes	It has long been argued that health systems should place a greater emphasis on prevention, but often funding has been lacking. The UK government's recent NHS 10 Year Health Plan has recognised the importance of prevention and The King's Fund in the UK has developed a number of documents and resources on prevention, including research outputs: • The role of the NHS workforce in the shift to prevention • What does prevention look like in practice? • The role of the adult social care workforce in the shift to prevention.

Journal articles

BMJ Quality & Safety
Volume 35, Issue 12, December 2026

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/35/12
Notes	A new issue of *BMJ Quality & Safety* has been published. Many of the papers in this issue have been referred to in previous editions of *On the Radar* (when they were released online). Articles in this issue of *BMJ Quality & Safety* include: • Editorial: Uncovering the missing links: from **peripheral intravenous catheter** policy and care to measurable outcomes (Josephine Lovegrove, Claire Rickard) • Editorial: Beyond task load: how understanding **why physicians leave—and why they stay**—safeguards healthcare quality and safety (Sylvia J Hysong, Christine Soong) • Impact of a multimodal care strategy on the prevention of **peripheral venous catheter-related phlebitis**: findings from the Flebitis Zero project (José Luis Cobo-Sánchez, José Antonio Cernuda Martinez, Eva María Alarcón Duque et al) • Differences in **physician task load** are associated with gender variance in physician well-being metrics (Elizabeth Harry, Julie Evans, Hanhan Wang et al) • Double trouble: a propensity-matched cohort study evaluating the associations between **duplicate medical records and patient outcomes** (Gavriel Roda, Angela Keniston, Nicholas Wood et al) • When emergency physicians meet patients displaying irritable behaviours: a randomised vignette-based experiment investigating **physicians' emotions and clinical reasoning** (Linda M Isbell, Nathan R Huff, Guanyu Liu et al) • Economic evaluation of **deimplementation interventions**: a systematic review (Comlan Lucien Hountongbé, Jason Robert Guertin, Soualio Gnanou et al) • Why a 'human-in-the-loop' is not an adequate safety strategy: the case for vendor accountability in **clinical AI safety** (Cassiopeia Frank)

JBI Evidence Synthesis
Volume 24, Issue 11, November 2026

URL	https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/toc/2026/11000
Notes	A new issue of *JBI Evidence Synthesis* has been published. Articles in this issue of *JBI Evidence Synthesis* include: • Editorial: Embedding the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** in evidence synthesis: from recognition to action (Lisa Porter, Jason Vickers, Lesley Lappin) • Challenges and enablers in **health care commissioning using the EPIS implementation framework**: a scoping review (Lankika Dhanushi Jayathilaka, Candice Oster, Gillian Harvey, Belinda Lange) • Exploring **undergraduate nursing students' preparation** to care for children and their families in Australia: a scoping review (Melisa Jayne Young, Huaqiong Zhou, Yunia Eka Kolikiana, Janie Alison Brown) • Mapping **resilience and co-occurring theoretical constructs in nurses**: a scoping review (Audrey Rosenblatt, Karen Dominguez-Cancino, Catherine Chung, Kelly Mecham, Marsha Bennett, Tyler Davis-Sandfoss, P Palmieri) • Effectiveness of **immersive virtual reality** on educational outcomes for health professional learners: an umbrella review protocol (Laura A Killam, Elizabeth Stone, Yunsik Lee, Jamie L Conklin, Janine E Hinton, Raquel Bertiz, H Davies, K A Kreis, L McKenna, K Foltz-Ramos, J Sinoski, S H Campbell, B Wilson-Keates, M Ehmke, M Luctkar-Flude, K Sears, B A Rogers) • Effectiveness of **preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy** compared with standard in vitro fertilization or intracytoplasmic sperm insemination in women with recurrent implantation failure: a systematic review and meta-analysis protocol (Stylianos Sergios Chatziioannou, Theodoros N Sergentanis, Varvara Papasideri, Makarios Eleftheriades, Theodoros Kalampokas) • Meaning in life of older persons with **end-stage kidney disease**: a scoping review protocol (Xian Xie, Xiaobo Yu, Patcharee Woragidpoonpol, Decha Tamdee, Patraporn Bhatarasakoon) • Therapeutic yoga vs physiotherapy-based balance and proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation training for stability and fall outcomes in older adults with **early-stage Parkinsonism**: a systematic review protocol (Lourdu Mary A Raj, Akuma Ifeanyichukwu, Prabha Adhikari, A P Manimegalai, Ranajit Das, Udayakumara K, N J Patil, Chandra Bathran) • Innovations in communication between patients, caregivers, health care providers, and trainees in **inpatient pediatrics**: a scoping review protocol (Shannon MacPhee, Grace MacIntyre, Leah Boulos, L J Kennedy, J Curran) • Performance of reduced- versus conventional-dose computed tomography in detection of **parenchymal lung abnormalities**: a systematic review protocol (Kirsten Bennett, Robin H van de Meeberg, Fraser Brims) • **Post-elimination trachoma surveillance** and integration into primary health systems: a scoping review protocol (Felix Okwudilichukwu Nwarienne, Adamu Ishaku Akyala, Nicholas Olobio, Fatai Oyediran, Teyil Wamyil-Mshelia, Gambo Yakubu, Grace Ajege, Charles Chibuisi Ehiemere, C O Nwosu) • Toward a definition of a core outcome set in **neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder**: a scoping review protocol (Cristian E Navarro, María Isabel Zuluaga, Sarah L Gorst, Carlos Enrique Yepes-Delgado, Mateo Chvatal-Medina, Heider Bautista-Mier, Ivan D Florez)

	• Identifying methodological guidance used for systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines, and health technology assessment for **rare diseases**: a scoping review protocol (Abigail M Day-Sharman, Danielle Pollock, Timothy H Barker, Johanna H van der Lee, Tracy Merlin, Mirthe J Klein Haneveld, Cindy Stern, Brendan V Schultz, F Germini, K Margetis, I J Hieltjes, Z Munn) • Expert perspectives on the **nociplastic pain descriptor**: a systematic review of textual evidence protocol (Jelle C Schouten, Wichor M Bramer, Gwendolyne G M Scholten-Peeters, Frank J P M Huygen, Jitske Tiemensma)

Health Policy
Volume 175, January 2027

URL	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/health-policy/vol/175/
Notes	A new issue of *Health Policy* has been published. Articles in this issue of *Health Policy* include: • Monitoring **health systems in small island settings** (Samuel d'Almeida) • **AI in health care**: from clinical support to algorithmic management? (Laurent Boyer, Raquel Urena, Pierre-Michel Llorca, Stéphane Sanchez, B Boussat) • The **health and care workforce in Europe's emerging health security architecture**: A comparative assessment of seven EU countries (Ellen Kuhlmann, Michelle Falkenbach, Gabriela Lotta, T Correia, A Domagala, L Kihlström, Z Kotherová, M-I Ungureanu, I Wallenburg, T Zapata, M Wismar) • A population-based comparison of **postoperative healthcare outcomes between immigrants and non-immigrants** undergoing emergency general surgery in British Columbia (Michael Guo, Lyndon Rebello, Ahmer Karimuddin, Jason M Sutherland) • What health reforms promise and what evaluations measure: A comparative policy analysis of **reform evaluation** in six predominantly tax-funded high-income countries (Jeffrey Braithwaite, Samantha Spanos, Freja Sønderby Severinsen, Julie Mackenhauer, Georgia Fisher, Peter D Hibbert, Katherine Hald, Siri Wiig, Russell Mannion, Axel Ros, Wendy Nicklin, S Paaske Johnsen) • Decomposing **health-service volume growth** in Türkiye: volume-based physician productivity and physician-density growth in a 12-country OECD comparison (Jebağı Canberk Aydın) • Health systems' responses to **climate change**: an umbrella review of systematic reviews (Katarzyna Dubas-Jakóbczyk, M Mrożek-Gąsiorowska, Costase Ndayishimiye, N S George, A B Pereyra, G Waldmann, W Quentin) • Operationalising **value-based payment**: a decision-support framework for health system reform (Ana Moreira, José Crispim) • Building system capacity for **home visits for patients near the end of life**: A mixed-methods study in Canada (Madeline McCoy, Sabah Tasnim, Hannah Millward, Jessica Roy, W Hall, C Webber, C Bennett, A T Hsu, S R Isenberg) • The healthcare cost of multimorbidity in **older patients with atrial fibrillation**: A retrospective cohort study in an Italian local health unit (Alessandra Buja, Vincenzo Rebba, Gino Sartor, Claudio Palmeri, Irene Rigato, Anna Zanovello, Luca Benacchio, Maria Chiara Corti, Luca Gino Sbrogio, Nicola Ferri, Federico Migliore, Alessandro Zorzi, Brendan Collins, Cheïma Amrouch, Delphine De Smedt, Christodoulos Kypridemos, Mirko Petrovic, Martin O'Flaherty, Cecilia Damiano, Davide Liborio Vetrano) • From technologies to capabilities: Sustaining **system-level digital transformation** in Singapore public healthcare – a NASSS-informed policy

	analysis (Jonty Heaversedge, Elizabeth Pan Dai Dee, Esther Lin Shuzhen, M Tang Chee Wei, S Bajaj, J W Guo Xian, S M Selim, E K Martin, E Soh) • Design and impact of **value-based payment**: a scoping review of schemes implemented or active between 2010 and 2024 (Seda Kumru, Zeynep Or) • Defining competencies for **language-discordant care in migrant and refugee mental health**: an international modified e-Delphi study (Alina-Ioana Forray, Răzvan Mircea Chereches̨, Ovidiu Oltean, Annika Kreienbrinck, Saskia Hanft-Robert, Houda Al-Kalaf, T S Sumerlin, A Liem, R Madzamba, B Schouten, C Anthonissen, T Al-Rousan, B J Hall, M Eisenbruch, M Mösko) • Canadian primary care needs **community health workers** as relational infrastructure (Alayne M Adams, Aditi Kantipuly) • How do countries design and govern **staffing levels**? A comparative analysis of European approaches (Michelle Falkenbach, Tomáš Troch, Kenneth Grech, Gemma A Williams, Matthias Wismar) • Information provision about cost coverage and parental **HPV vaccination** intentions: A randomized survey experiment in the Czech Republic (Rostislav Staněk, Onděj Krčál) • Examining the extent to which adult health conditions meet the current **population screening criteria** of the UK national screening committee (Saffana Hilmy Mahmudah, Jiwoo Sohn, J Rothwell, C Mukichi, K K Lim) • **Mandatory reporting of healthcare-associated infections**: a global comparative policy analysis using Kingdon's multiple streams framework (Zyad T Saleh, Majdi Rababa, Majed S Al-Za'areer, Hilana Ahmad Al-Kharouf, Rami A Elshatarat, Bandar Naffaa Alhumaidi, Amaal Samir Abdelmaksoud, Khaled M Al-Sayaghi, Amany Hussein Abd Elsattar, Aziz Aslanoğlu, Ahmad Rajeh Saifan, Doaa El Sayed Fadila) • Characteristics of **medical malpractice claims** over 22 years: a population-based analysis in Catalonia, Spain (Josep Arimany-Manso, Josep Benet-Travé, Carles Martin-Fumadó, Amadeo Pujol-Robinat, César Vargas-Blasco, Juan Ignacio Morales-Ferrero) • Should the geriatrician host the party? Person-centred hospital care in ageing societies requires placing **geriatrics at the centre of care** (Emil Lundgren, Martin Aasbrenn, Sonja Lindner-Rabl, Jurate Macijauskiene, Regina Roller-Wirnsberger, Michael Denkinger) • Optimisation of the **hospital network reform** in Slovakia between 2020 and 2025 (Matej Misik) • Designing a **National Suicide Prevention Strategy** (2026–2031): Insights from Malta's Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society Model (Francesca Sammut, Karen Maria Borg, Antonella Sammut) • **Dietitians Role in Long-Term Care Homes**: A Cross-Country Analysis of Legislation, Standards, Guidelines, and Role Statements (Karly Bartrim, Amelia Messiter, N Barr, L Ball, D Cave, H Olufson, B Lepre, M Wheeler, A Pashley) • An ensemble clustering typology of **long-term care policies**: evidence from 30 OECD countries (Cristina Barbosa, Nuno de Sousa Pereira) • **Well-being and healthcare work over the pandemic** (Chiara Costi, Andrew E. Clark, Anthony Lepinteur, Conchita D'Ambrosio)

American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy
Volume 83, Issue 22, November 2026

URL	https://academic.oup.com/ajhp/issue/83/22
Notes	A new issue of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* has been published. Articles in this issue of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* include: • Cardiovascular outcomes of **glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists**: A systematic review (Nicoline Bihelek et al) • Exploring ambulatory care pharmacists' beliefs and confidence in **managing diabetes in perinatal women**: A qualitative study guided by the Theory of Planned Behavior (Heeseung J Mueller et al) • Real-world hospital pharmacy and nursing study assessing the time and motion comparison of 3 different marketed formulations of a **cephalosporin antibiotic** (Akshar N Patel et al) • Evaluation of a **pharmacist-led telehealth transitions-of-care program**: A multisite analysis of program impact on readmissions (Samantha Liaw et al) • Temporal and agent-level trends in opioid prescribing for patients with **severe sickle cell disease** (Kangho Suh et al) • Automation of **payor-driven product selection** in the electronic health record: Implementation and impact for biosimilars and iron products (Christian Tulio et al) • Pharmacists are responsible for **patient outcomes when dispensing opioids** (William Manning Olsen et al) • The **chief pharmacy officer's role in integrating artificial intelligence** across the enterprise (David Aguero et al)

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: • Beyond the ERAS Bundle: Individual Components and Incremental Benefit After Minimally Invasive **Lumbar Fusion** (Diqi Ying and Ding Li) • **Performance indicators bundle for cardiovascular care**: a scoping review and expert opinion (Miriam Allein Zago Marcolino, Luciana Rodrigues de Lara, Eduarda Dewitte Maciel, Renata Garcia Ruschel, Nayê Balzan Schneider, Yohan Casiraghi, Luísa Godoy, Jerry Eduardo de Almeida de Bairos, Renata Augusta de Souza Aguiar, Ana Paula Beck da Silva Etges, Carisi A Polanczyk) • Cost-effectiveness analysis of new-generation **drug-eluting stents** for myocardial infarction: a nationwide population-based study (Yu-Chi Tung and Guann-Ming Chang)

Online resources

Australian Living Evidence Collaboration
https://livingevidence.org.au/

Guidance
A number of guidelines or guidance have recently been published or updated These include:

- Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF). ***Kimberley clinical guidelines***
  Kimberley Clinical Guidelines are designed for health care professionals in the Kimberley and have been developed from a desire to standardise the screening for, and management of, health conditions more prevalent in the Kimberley, and in recognition that the management of these conditions differs from standard management due to the extreme remoteness of the area. They have been developed by multidisciplinary teams of local health care professionals based on local research findings, and established best practices adapted to local conditions. The Clinical Guidelines are managed by KAHPF Sub-committees, and endorsed by the KAHPF.
  https://kahpf.org.au/clinical-protocols
- ***Management of Type 2 Diabetes****, 2026. A Consensus Report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)*
  Melanie J. Davies, Vanita R. Aroda, Mandeep Bajaj, Nuha A. ElSayed, Francesco Giorgino, Jennifer Green, Rita R. Kalyani, Nisa M. Maruthur, Chantal Mathieu, Sylvia E. Rosas, Peter Rossing, Tommy Slater, Tsvetalina Tankova, Pinar Topsever, Apostolos Tsapas, John B. Buse
  Diabetes Care 2026; dci260141. https://doi.org/10.2337/dci26-0141
- *Use of* ***Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists*** *in Pregnancy and Lactation*
  American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
  https://www.acog.org/clinical/guidance/practice-advisory/2026/10/use-of-glucagon-like-peptide-1-receptor-agonists-in-pregnancy-and-lactation/

Infection prevention and control resources

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a number of resources to assist healthcare organisations, facilities and clinicians These resources include:

- ***Standard and transmission-based precautions***
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/clinical-topics/infection-prevention-and-control/standard-and-transmission-based-precautions

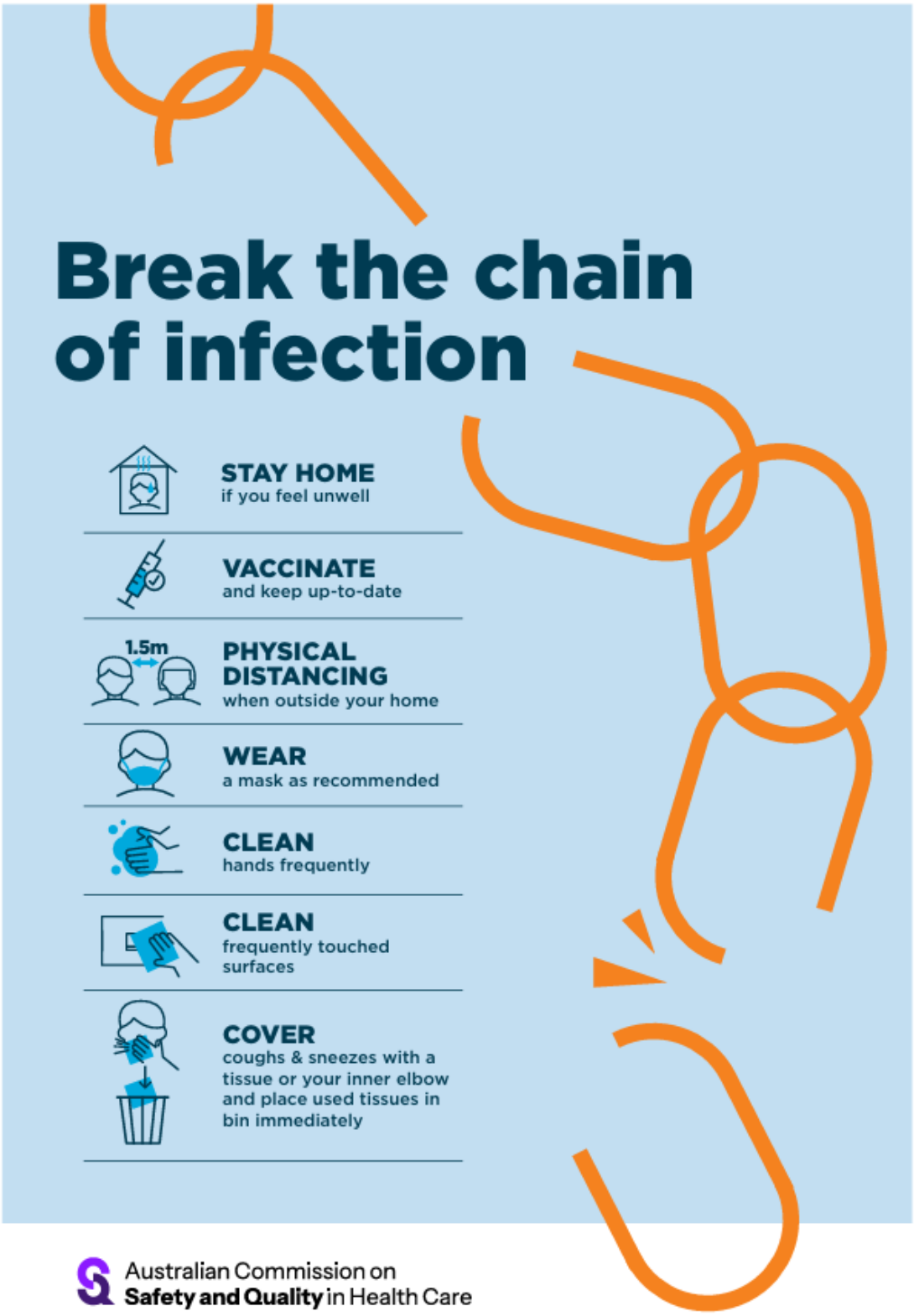
- ***Poster – Combined contact and droplet precautions***
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/infection-prevention-and-control-poster-combined-contact-and-droplet-precautions



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



- ***Aged Care standard and transmission-based precautions posters*** – https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/clinical-topics/aged-care-and-older-people#standard-and-transmission-based-precautions-in-aged-care-
- ***Break the chain of infection poster*** https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-infection-poster



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.