

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

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- [Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation](#)
- [Antimicrobial Usage and Prescribing](#)
- [Acute Stroke Clinical Care Standard](#)
- [NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services](#)
- [Guide to the NSQHS Standards for health service boards](#)
- [Essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care](#)
- [Health Literacy](#)
- [CT scans and children](#)
- [Annual Report 2014/15](#)
- [Vital Signs 2015](#)

## Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation

The Commission's first *Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation* has been launched by The Honourable Sussan Ley, Australian Minister for Health, at Parliament House and illuminates variation in health care provision across Australia.

The atlas presents a clear picture of substantial variation in healthcare use across Australia, across areas such as antibiotic prescribing, surgical, mental health and diagnostic services.

Some variation is expected and associated with need-related factors such as underlying differences in the health of specific populations, or personal preferences. However, the weight of evidence in Australia and internationally suggests that much of the variation documented in the atlas is likely to be unwarranted.

[Download the \*Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation\* here](#)

[Watch videos from the launch on the Commission's YouTube channel](#)

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION  
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



### Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation

November 2015



[Back to top](#)

## Antimicrobial Usage and Prescribing

There is wide variation in antimicrobial usage between Australian hospitals, indicating that although overall

usage rates have decreased slightly in recent years, there is considerable room for improvement.

*Antimicrobial use in Australian hospitals: 2014 report of the National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program* (NAUSP) was released by the Commission this year and provides important information on how antimicrobials are being used in Australian hospitals.

[Download the NAUSP report here](#)

Similarly, the *National Antimicrobial Prescribing Practice: results of the 2014 National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey* (NAPS) summarises the results of a voluntary annual audit of 248 hospitals across Australia. Released in 2015, the report provides important information about the rate and appropriateness of antimicrobial use in Australian hospitals.

[Download the NAPS report here](#)

[Watch the Commission's animation on the Antimicrobial Use & Resistance in Australia Surveillance System on YouTube here](#)

[Back to top](#)

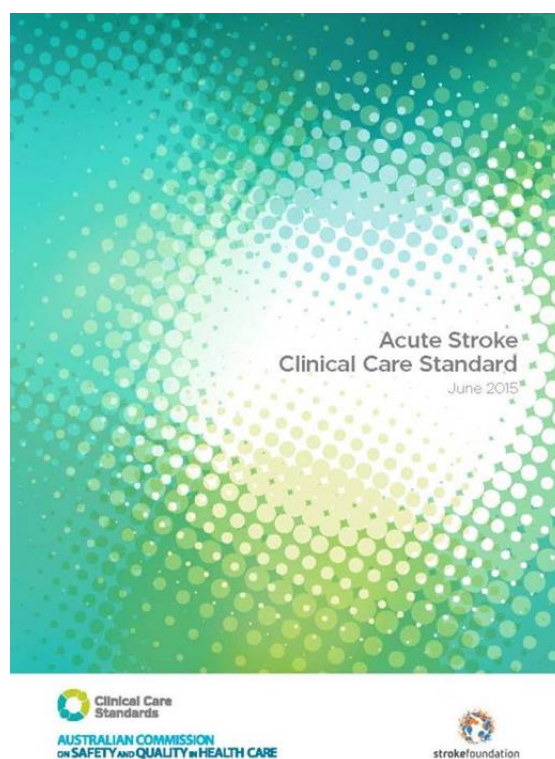
## Acute Stroke Clinical Care Standard

Stroke is a major cause of death and disability in Australia. Despite well-developed management guidelines, there are variations in the care and treatment of patients presenting to hospitals with acute stroke or suspected acute stroke.

The Commission's *Acute Stroke Clinical Care Standard* aims to improve the early assessment and management of patients with stroke.

The Clinical Care Standard guides clinicians and health services on providing high-quality care, and supports patients and their carers in understanding treatment options.

[Download the \*Acute Stroke Clinical Care Standard\* here](#)



[Back to top](#)

## NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services

Accreditation to the NSQHS Standards is mandatory for the majority of public dental services and voluntary for private dental practices.

In implementing the NSQHS Standards, dental practices should put in place safety and quality systems to ensure minimum standards of care are met.

The Commission's *NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services* helps dental practices to improve the safety and quality of care using the NSQHS Standards as a framework for improvement.

[Download the \*NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services\* here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Guide to the NSQHS Standards for health service boards

Boards play an essential part in ensuring the safety and quality of care provided in health service organisations.

The Commission's guide for implementing the NSQHS Standards for health service organisation boards summarises the governance responsibilities and accountabilities of a governing board along with actions that they may take to promote safe and high quality care. It provides a tool for identifying areas of potential vulnerability and opportunities for improvement.

The guide for health service organisation boards was developed in collaboration with experts, including current health service organisation board members.

[Download the \*Guide to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards for health service organisation boards\*](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care

End-of-life care is an important safety and quality issue for the community. The Commission has developed a National Consensus Statement that sets out the principles and elements that shape the delivery of safe and high-quality end-of-life care in acute health care settings.

The consensus statement has been endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers as the national approach to the delivery of end-of-life care in Australian hospitals.

[Download the National Consensus Statement and additional resources here](#)



[Back to top](#)

## Health Literacy

Health literacy is about how people understand information regarding health and health care, and how they apply that information to their lives, use it to make decisions and act on it.

Health literacy is important because it shapes people's health and the safety and quality of their health care.

The Commission has developed summary sheets for

clinicians, consumers, healthcare executives and managers to improve their understanding of health literacy and provide advice on how to improve it, as well as a series of infographics to promote health literacy.

[Download the the national statement on health literacy, summary sheets and infographics here](#)



[Back to top](#)

## CT scans and children

In Australia, many computer tomography (CT) scans are performed on children and young people each year. CT is a valuable diagnostic tool, especially in emergency situations. However, they use higher doses of radiation than other types of imaging tests, and their use in childhood or adolescence has been linked to a slight increase in developing cancer later in life.

The Commission has released a number of resources outlining the risks and benefits of CT scans in children and young people. The resources provide information to parents and carers, referrers and medical imaging providers about what to consider when making a decision about imaging options.



[More information about CT scans for children](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Annual Report 2014/15

The Commission's *Annual Report 2014/15* provides an overview of our operations and performance for the financial year ending 30 June 2015, and is available for download on our website.

[Download the Commission's Annual Report 2014/15 here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Vital Signs 2015

*Vital Signs 2015* provides a snapshot of safety and quality performance and activity on a number of important topics. It is structured around three questions that members of the public ask about their health care: Will my care be safe?; Will I get the right care?; and Will I be a partner in my care?

[Download Vital Signs 2015 here](#)

[Back to top](#)

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