

A Clinical Care Standard tells you what care you should be offered if you have a particular clinical condition. You can use the clinical care standard to guide discussions with your health care professional about treatment options suitable to your individual condition.

What is a Clinical Care Standard?

A Clinical Care Standard is a national agreement on key components of care health professionals and health services should offer patients for a specific clinical condition. For example, when you have a stroke or heart attack.

How can I use a Clinical Care Standard?

You can use the Clinical Care Standard to guide discussions with your health care professional about treatment options suitable to your individual condition.

Why Clinical Care Standards are needed?

- Help patients and health professionals make decisions about the right care for a particular clinical condition;
- Help people get the right care in the right place at the right time.

Is a Clinical Care Standard the same as clinical guidelines?

No, they are not. A Clinical Care Standard is based on the most up-to-date clinical guidelines. The clinical practice guidelines contained details of all aspects of treatment and care for a specific condition. It is broader and extensive.

Who develops the clinical care standards?

To develop a Clinical Care Standard, the Commission works with:

- Consumers
- Health professionals (for example: Doctors, nurses, GPs, physiotherapists, etc)
- Researchers
- Staff from health services

The size of the topic working group will depend on the topic, but most have between 12-15 members

We try to put together a group of people who have a mix of the following:

- Clinical expertise, for example nursing or allied health
- Specialised clinical expertise, for example cardiologists
- A practical understanding of the problems faced when providing care

We do not expect the people in the group to be experts in all areas, but their knowledge and experience are valuable.

How can I get involved?

Each draft Clinical Care Standard goes through a public consultation process and the feedback from this process is used to further improve the Clinical Care Standards.

Everyone can provide feedback; you can do it by writing to us or via email.

If you would like to hear from us, you can:

- sign up to the Commission Twitter account @ACSQHS, or
- sign up to the Commission's newsletters.
- contact the Clinical Care Standards team at ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au

More information on the Clinical Care Standards program is available from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care website at www.safetyandquality.gov.au