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AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

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Shared Decision Making Symposium – now online

Last week, the Commission and the University of Sydney's Centre for Medical Psychology and Evidence-Based Decision Making (CeMPED) held a public symposium on Shared Decision Making.

This important event provided an opportunity for policymakers, clinicians, researchers and consumers to come together to hear from international and national experts in shared decision making, including Professor Dawn Stacey from the University of Ottawa, Canada. Discussions focussed on the tools and skills required for effective shared decision making, and current implementation issues for clinical practice.

[A recording of the full program of speakers is now available online from our web site.](#)



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Antibiotic Awareness Week 2014 resources now available

Antibiotic Awareness Week is a global initiative to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and promote the responsible use of antibiotics. The Commission is coordinating the Australian campaign with NPS MedicineWise, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, and the Department of Agriculture to promote consistent messages about appropriate use of antibiotics.

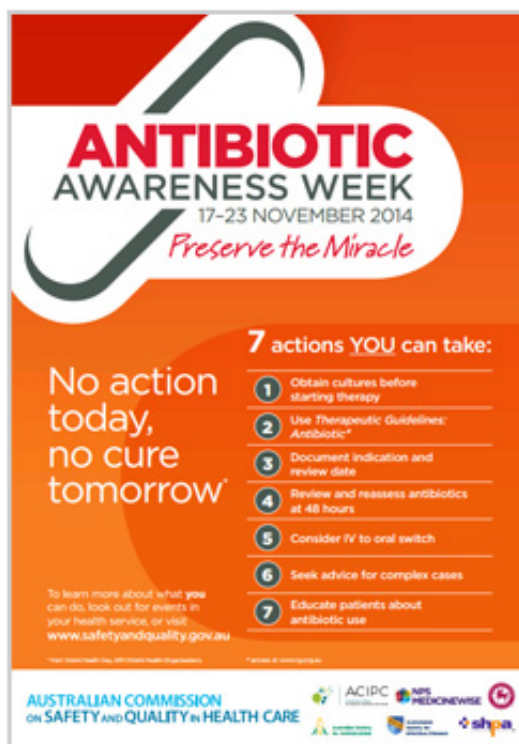
This year's campaign for hospitals focuses on seven actions healthcare providers can take to help preserve the miracle of antibiotics:

1. Obtain cultures before therapy
2. Use Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic
3. Document indication for therapy and review date
4. Review and reassess antibiotics after 48 hours
5. Consider IV to oral switch
6. Seek advice from an infectious diseases specialist in complex cases
7. Educate patients about antibiotic use.

Planning and promotional resources are now available from the Commission's web site including information about the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (see article below), posters, pocket cards, planning resources, powerpoint presentation, screensaver, signature block and more.

[Click here to access the resources available.](#)

[Click here to order an Antibiotic Awareness Week t-shirt.](#)
Be quick, only a limited number available.



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National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey 2014 now open

To coincide with this year's Antibiotic Awareness Week (17-23 November), the Melbourne Health National Health and Medical Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship will again be coordinating the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS).

The survey is supported by the Commission as effective antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is a key plank of the Commission's national work to prevent and contain AMR. The NAPS results can also be used as evidence to support the AMS criteria of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections.

The Commission encourages acute health care services of all sizes, public and private, across the country, to participate in the Survey. Special assistance will be provided to rural sites, which may not have specialist infectious diseases advice or an antimicrobial pharmacist.

[Click here to visit the NAPS website for more information.](#)

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Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation

The Commission is developing an Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation ('Atlas'). The Atlas will inform strategies, resources and tools to identify and reduce unwarranted healthcare variation, and will drive further investigation of variation at the local area level.

The Atlas will cover a broad range of topic areas which reflect current national healthcare priorities and stimulate clinical engagement, leadership and interest at the local level, as well as at the state, territory and

Australian Government levels. Themes to be explored in the Atlas include:

- Antimicrobial prescribing
- Chronic diseases
- Mental health & cognitive impairment
- Care of the elderly
- Paediatric care
- End of life care
- Surgical interventions
- Pathology and diagnostic testing

The Atlas is being developed in consultation with consumers, clinicians, states, territories and the Commonwealth. The Commission has established an oversight and advisory structure (including a clinical advisory group, and a jurisdictional advisory group) to ensure the necessary stakeholder input into the development of the Atlas.

The Commission's work in this important area aims to identify and reduce unwarranted healthcare variation and to improve patient care and outcomes, while ensuring value in healthcare spending.

The Atlas is due for release in 2015.

[More on the Commission's work exploring healthcare variation.](#)

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Hospital Mortality Indicators Literature Review, Case Studies and Appendices

Hospital Mortality Indicators (HMIs) are an element of a hospital patient safety monitoring program. They are best used as safety and quality screening tools to support clinical governance by flagging potential areas of concern or best practice. Australian Health Ministers have endorsed the routine review of HMIs along with infection rates, readmission rates and patient experience survey results.

To support the use of HMIs, the Commission engaged Melbourne Health to conduct a literature review examining the usefulness and limitations of these indicators. The literature review includes comprehensive case studies of the United Kingdom, Canada and United States.

The review provides an up-to-date picture of the work being undertaken to understand the composition, utilisation and utility of HMIs. The case studies contributed significantly to this review, noting variation between jurisdictions in specification of mortality models and the maturity of implementation. The report concluded that there was ongoing interest in improving technical specifications of HMIs with less focus on investigation and utilisation of these models.

[Download the Hospital Mortality Literature Review.](#)

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Vital Signs 2014: The State of Safety and Quality in Australian Health Care

One of the Commission's core functions is to report on the state of safety and quality of the Australian health system. This helps people to understand the health system, what the system is doing to improve safety and quality and how successful these efforts are. Focus on these areas can also help to bring about change and

improvement in experiences and outcomes for patients.

Vital Signs 2014 provides an overview of a series of key topics in relation to the safety and quality of Australia's health care system. It focuses on three important questions that members of the public may ask about their health care. Will my care be safe? Will I get the right care? Will I be a partner in my care?

[Download *Vital Signs 2014* from the Commission's web site.](#)



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Annual Report 2013/14

The Commission presented its 2013/14 Annual Report to parliament on 15 October 2014. The report is now publicly available and can be downloaded from the Commission's web site.

[Download the Commission's Annual Report 2012/13.](#)

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