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AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

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Antibiotic Awareness Week, 18-24 November 2013

Antibiotic Awareness Week is 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 *No action today, no cure tomorrow*[^] and promotes actions to improve antibiotic prescribing and use. The Commission encourages all hospitals and health service organisations to take part in Antibiotic Awareness Week 2013 by coordinating local promotional activities.

A range of 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, screensavers, signature blocks and more.

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

[^]Taken from the WHO's World Health Day 2011 campaign to promote AMR.

*Source: Therapeutic guidelines: Antibiotic, Version 14. 2010.

ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK
18-24 NOVEMBER 2013
Preserve the Miracle

No action today, no cure tomorrow

Look out for events in your hospital, or visit the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
www.safetyandquality.gov.au

- 1 Obtain cultures before starting therapy
- 2 Use Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic*
- 3 Document indication and review date
- 4 Review and reassess antibiotics at 48 hours
- 5 Consider IV to oral switch
- 6 Seek advice for complex cases
- 7 Educate patients about antibiotic use

*Source: Therapeutic guidelines: antibiotic, version 14, 2010

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

ACIRC NPS MEDICINEWISE shpa

National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS)

To coincide with Antibiotic Awareness Week, the Melbourne Health NH&MRC Antimicrobial Stewardship research team will again be coordinating the National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (NAPS); this work is supported by the Commission.

Participation in the survey provides a valuable opportunity for hospitals to audit local antimicrobial prescribing patterns and identify where they are going well and opportunities for improvement.

Registration is open to all acute care hospitals, public and private, and the Commission encourages you to participate. The survey tool has been updated and will enable hospitals to participate in benchmarking analysis for like-hospital subgroups, if they choose, and subject to local approval processes. If a facility wishes to be involved in the benchmarking process, the NAPS coordinating team will provide further advice.

The survey will be accessible via the Commission's web site from early November.

[Click here to download the NAPS 2013 information sheet.](#)

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Online presentations from international experts in safety and quality in health care

During September and October the Commission had the pleasure of hosting three international experts in the field of health care safety and quality. Professor Sir Muir Gray, Professor France Légaré and Robert Francis QC shared their knowledge and experience with Australian audiences at a series of lectures convened across the country.

These lectures were recorded and are available to view from the Commission's web site via the links below.

[Professor Sir Muir Gray, "The Third Healthcare Revolution"](#)

[Professor France Légaré, "Shared Decision Making: Bridging well-being of individuals with successful societies"](#)

[Robert Francis QC, "Governance for Safety and Quality: Lessons from Mid Staffordshire"](#)

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Improving the management of cognitive impairment

The Department of Social Services has funded the Commission to use the NSQHS Standards and other potential mechanisms to provide the basis for nationally coordinated improvement in the care of patients with cognitive impairment in acute care.

A draft handbook has been developed to guide services in improving safety and providing high quality care for people with cognitive impairment in acute care settings within the context of the NSQHS Standards.

The Commission is currently conducting consultation forums and an online survey (open until 10 December 2013) on the draft handbook.

[Download the consultation draft handbook.](#)

[More information regarding the consultation process forums.](#)

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Vital Signs 2013: 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 2013 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?

Vital Signs 2013 is the first release of what will be an annual publication.

[Download the *Vital Signs 2013* from the Commission's web site.](#)



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Annual Report 2012/13

The Commission presented its 2012/13 Annual Report to parliament on 15 October 2013. 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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Reducing preventable harm from sepsis

Sepsis is a world-wide public health issue which claims thousands of lives each year. Sepsis is a medical emergency, just like a stroke or acute coronary syndrome and can lead to shock, multiple organ failure and death. Appropriate recognition and timely management of patients with severe infection and sepsis is a significant problem.

The Clinical Excellence Commission's (CEC) *Sepsis Kills* program is based on quality and safety principles and provides a framework to collaborate with clinicians to improve the recognition and treatment of sepsis. The goal is to reduce preventable harm to patients with sepsis through early recognition and prompt treatment.

Successful implementation of the Sepsis Kills program is



providing significant benefits at both clinical and system levels.

[Visit the CEC's website for more details on the Sepsis Kills program.](#)

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Healthscope and Bupa announce landmark agreement on quality healthcare outcomes

Private health service organisation Healthscope and private health insurer Bupa last week announced a landmark agreement that improves focus on quality healthcare outcomes.

While the majority of patients within the Australian healthcare system experience positive health outcomes, there are rare occasions when preventable and potentially harmful errors occur. These incidents are referred to as 'Never Events' because they should never happen. Examples of 'Never Events' include a patient being given the wrong blood for a transfusion, or a medication error that results in serious disability.

The agreement between Healthscope and Bupa will see Healthscope forgo payment if a Bupa member experiences one of 14 defined 'Never Events' in a Healthscope hospital.

[For more details on the agreement, click here.](#)

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