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# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

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## NSQHS Standards Guide for Small Hospitals

In June 2013, the Commission released the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Guide for Small Hospitals. The guide is specifically designed to help health service organisations with fewer than 50 beds to implement the NSQHS Standards.

Hard copies of the guide have been sent to all relevant health service organisations across Australia. If you have received a guide, please note there is no change to the current arrangements in place for accreditation to the NSQHS Standards nor does the guide signify a change in your organisation's status (either as a hospital or day procedure service).

[Click here to download NSQHS Standards Guide for Small Hospitals.](#)



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## NSQHS Standards network meetings

The Commission has commenced a second round of network meetings (teleconference) on each of the ten NSQHS Standards. Health service organisations that are due for a surveillance visit (either mid cycle or organisational wide) before July 2014, and other interested parties, are welcome to join. This round of meetings will feature hospitals and day procedure services who have already been accredited, talking about their experiences and the lessons they have learned.

The network meetings are taking place from now to the end of November 2013.

[Click here to register your interest in participating.](#)

## Get it right! Taking a Best Possible Medication History – training video



Obtaining a best possible medication history, or BPMH, is an important step in medication reconciliation. The Commission recently released a training video that guides clinicians on how to obtain an accurate and complete BPMH.

By the end of the video, clinicians should be able to:

- explain how to obtain and record a BPMH
- explain why at least two sources of information are used to obtain the BPMH
- understand how medication history taking techniques can influence the accuracy of the BPMH, and
- recognise when medication reconciliation should occur and why it is important.

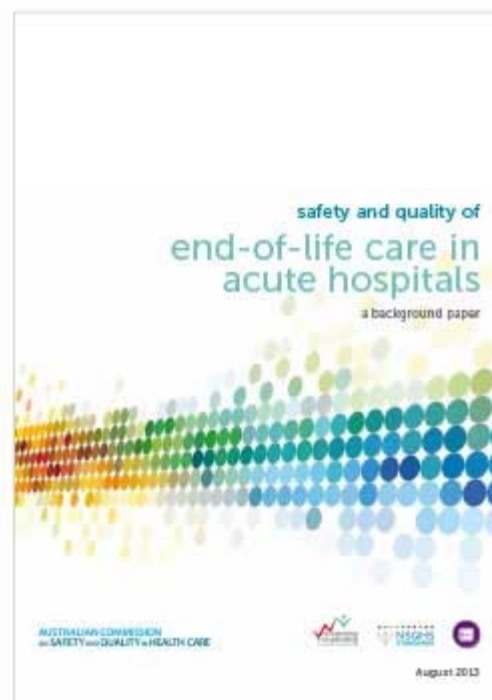
[Click here to watch \*Get it right! Taking a Best Possible Medication History.\*](#)

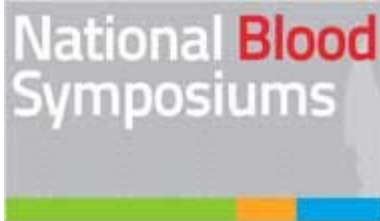
## End-of-life care in acute hospitals

The Commission has recently commenced a new program of work on end-of-life care in acute hospitals. The health care that people receive in the last years, months and weeks of their lives can help to minimise the distress and grief associated with death and dying for the individual, and for their family, friends and carers. Many Australians spend much of their last year of life going in and out of hospital, and more than half of those who die each year do so in acute care settings. Although many of these people receive excellent care, there are some who currently do not.

As a first step, the Commission has developed a background paper: Safety and Quality of End-of-Life Care in Acute Hospitals. This background paper presents a précis of the current policy and clinical framework for end-of-life care within the Australian acute healthcare setting and as interpreted by consumers, clinicians and policy makers. It provides a platform for discussion and future work of the Commission to improve the safety and quality of end-of-life care in acute hospitals.

[Click here to download the background paper from the Commission's website.](#)





Blood Symposiums:  
Implementing NSQHS  
Standard 7  
23 September 2013 (Sydney)  
25 September 2013 (Melbourne)  
27 September 2013 (Adelaide)



Free public lecture:  
The Third Healthcare  
Revolution  
by Professor Sir Muir Gray  
30 September 2013 (Sydney)  
RSVP closes 20 September



Free public lecture:  
Shared Decision Making  
by Professor France Légaré  
16 October 2013 (Sydney)  
RSVP closes 4 October

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