# Australian COmmission on Safety and Quality in Health Care logo with Radar imageOn the Radar

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*On the Radar* is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Inclusion in this document is not an endorsement or recommendation of any publication or provider. Access to particular documents may depend on whether they are Open Access or not, and/or your individual or institutional access to subscription sites/services. Material that may require subscription is included as it is considered relevant.

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**On the Radar**

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**Journal articles**

*How To Win The Doctor Lottery*

Nakazawa DJ

Health Affairs. 2017 April 1, 2017;36(4):764-7.

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| DOI | <http://dx.doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0431> |
| Notes | A narrative piece in which a range of experiences of care across the course of a lifetime, involving the author, her father and her child, illustrate the importance of the patient-clinician relationship, particularly from the perspective of a patient experiencing life-changing conditions and events. This story has tragic loss as well as what the author “extraordinary healing, even a miracle” and the patient-clinician is prominent in all these experiences. The positive ones include the survival of an infant child “because our physician took the time to listen, show compassion, earn trust, partner with us, advocate, and provide just the right amount of care to save a life. She fostered a safe and healing patient-doctor relationship, while navigating us through a sea of uncertainty.” |

For information about the Commission’s work on patient and consumer centred care, see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/patient-and-consumer-centred-care/>

*Improving our understanding of multi-tasking in healthcare: Drawing together the cognitive psychology and healthcare literature*

Douglas HE, Raban MZ, Walter SR, Westbrook JI

Applied Ergonomics. 2017;59, Part A:45-55.

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| DOI | <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.apergo.2016.08.021>  |
| Notes | Further to the work of members of this group on the significance of interruptions in clinical work is this piece on the impact of multi-tasking. It’s been shown that multi-tasking is something of a myth and we’re all better of focusing rather than attempting to multi-task. Among the key messages of this piece is that **multi-tasking** can have **detrimental effects on task performance** and **increase errors**, multi-tasking is **ubiquitous in healthcare** and is a **potential patient safety risk**. |

*Use and implementation of standard operating procedures and checklists in prehospital emergency medicine: a literature review*

Chen C, Kan T, Li S, Qiu C, Gui L

The American Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2016;34(12):2432-9.

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| DOI | <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajem.2016.09.057> |
| Notes | Methods of standardising practice such as checklists and standard operating procedures (SOPs) have become quite commonplace. This paper reviewed the literature in the realm of use pre-hospital emergency medicine and their impact on guideline adherence and patient outcome. From the analysis of the selected 13 English-language studies, the author’s concluded that the “use and implementation of **SOPs** and **checklists** in prehospital emergency medicine have shown some **benefits** of improving **guidelines adherence** and **patient outcomes** in airway management, patient records, identification and triage, and other prehospital interventions.” |

*Long term effects of once-only flexible sigmoidoscopy screening after 17 years of follow-up: the UK Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Screening randomised controlled trial*

Atkin W, Wooldrage K, Parkin DM, Kralj-Hans I, MacRae E, Shah U, et al

The Lancet. 2017;389(10076):1299-311.

*Flexible sigmoidoscopy screening: is once enough?*

Pinsky PF

The Lancet. 2017;389(10076):1275-7.

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| DOI | Atkin et al [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30396-3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736%2817%2930396-3)Pinsky [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30542-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736%2817%2930542-1) |
| Notes | Colorectal cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer and a leading cause of cancer death. In many countries various approaches to screening have been adopted, often involving stool-based tests (fecal occult blood test [FOBT] and fecal immunochemical test [FIT]), flexible sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy. Atkin and colleagues discuss the follow-up of the UK Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Screening Trial (UKFSST) through a median of 17 years of follow-up. This randomised controlled trial had enrolled 170 432 eligible men and women to either an intervention group (offered one-time flexible sigmoidoscopy screening) or control group (not contacted), with primary outcomes of colorectal cancer incidence and mortality. The study revealed that colorectal cancer incidence and mortality were 35% and 41% lower in the screened group with the conclusion stated as “A single flexible sigmoidoscopy continues to provide substantial protection from colorectal cancer diagnosis and death, with protection lasting at least 17 years.”In an accompanying comment piece, Pinsky reflects on the findings and the possible implications for screening programs. |

*Effect of day of the week on short- and long-term mortality after emergency general surgery*

Gillies MA, Lone NI, Pearse RM, Haddow C, Smyth L, Parks RW, et al

British Journal of Surgery. 2017 [epub].

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| DOI | <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10507> |
| Notes | This paper adds to the debate about days of the week or weekend effect in healthcare. In this case it was looking at whether day of the week of emergency general surgery alters short- and long-term mortality. Using data covering all patients undergoing emergency general surgery in Scotland between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007, followed to 2012 – a population al of 50 844 patients, of whom 31 499 had an emergency procedure on Monday to Thursday and 19 345 on Friday to Sunday. The analysis showed that patients undergoing surgery at the weekend tended to were younger (mean 45·9 versus 47·5 years) and had fewer co-morbidities, but underwent riskier and/or more complex procedures. The weekend patients were more likely to have been operated on sooner than those who had weekday surgery (mean time from admission to operation 1·2 versus 1·6 days). No difference in perioperative mortality or overall survival was observed when surgery was performed at the weekend, leading to the conclusion that “There was **no difference in short- or long-term mortality following emergency general surgery at the weekend, compared with mid-week**.” |

*Impact of total knee replacement practice: cost effectiveness analysis of data from the Osteoarthritis Initiative*

Ferket BS, Feldman Z, Zhou J, Oei EH, Bierma-Zeinstra SMA, Mazumdar M

BMJ. 2017;356(j1131).

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| DOI | <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j1131> |
| Notes | This paper used data from two US studies two studies—Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI) and the Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study (MOST)—in order to evaluate the impact of total knee replacement on quality of life in people with knee osteoarthritis and to estimate associated differences in lifetime costs and quality adjusted life years (QALYs) according to use by level of symptoms. The interventions ranged from current practice (defined as total knee replacement) to practice limited to patients with severe symptoms to no surgery. The results suggest a more targeted approached had greater utility as “**Current practice** of total knee replacement as performed in a recent US cohort of patients with knee osteoarthritis had **minimal effects on quality of life** and QALYs at the group level. If the procedure were **restricted to more severely affected patients**, its **effectiveness would rise**, with practice becoming economically more attractive than its current use.” |

*Using aggregated general practice data to evaluate primary care interventions*

Staff M, Roberts C, March LM

Medical Journal of Australia. 2017;206(6):242-3.

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| DOI | <http://dx.doi.org/10.5694/mja16.00528> |
| Notes | One of the areas of ‘known unknowns’ in the safety and quality of health care is that of primary care. This Australian paper mounts an argument for the extraction and aggregation of data from the clinical systems now commonplace in many primary care/GP practices such that the compiled data can be used “to improve outcomes at patient, health system and population levels”. |

*International Journal for Quality in Health Care*

Volume 29, Issue 1

February 2017

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| URL | <https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/issue/29/1> |
| Notes | A new issue of the *International Journal for Quality in Health Care* has been published. Many of the papers in this issue have been referred to in previous editions of *On the Radar* (when they were released online). Articles in this issue of the *International Journal for Quality in Health Care* include:* Editorial: Evaluating **quality improvement methods** and economics of **preventable adverse events** in the healthcare: From Africa to Europe (Shabbir Syed-Abdul; Usman Iqbal; Yu-Chuan (Jack) Li)
* **Quality agencies** at the global level: characteristics and functions—a narrative review (Pedro J. Saturno Hernández; María Fernández Elorriaga; Ofelia Poblano Verástegui; José De Jesús Vértiz Ramírez)
* A literature-based **economic evaluation of healthcare preventable adverse events** in Europe (Taofikat B. Agbabiaka; Martina Lietz; J J Mira; B Warner)
* **Quality management**: where is the evidence? Developing an indicator-based approach in Kenya (Helen Prytherch; Maureen Nafula; Charles Kandie; Marc Brodowski; Irmgard Marx; Sandy Kubaj; Irene Omogi; Alexia Zurkuhlen; Claudia Herrler; Katja Goetz; Joachim Szecsenyi; Michael Marx)
* **Healthcare resource utilization** and **clinical outcomes** associated with acute care and inpatient rehabilitation of **stroke** patients in Japan (Kyoko Murata; Shiro Hinotsu; Nobutake Sadamasa; Kazumichi Yoshida; Sen Yamagata; Shoji Asari; Susumu Miyamoto; Koji Kawakami)
* Evaluating the impact of **continuous quality improvement methods** at hospitals in Tanzania: a cluster-randomized trial (Yusuke Kamiya; Hisahiro Ishijma; Akiko Hagiwara; Shizu Takahashi; Henook A.M. Ngonyani; Eleuter Samky)
* The **Outpatient Experience Questionnaire** of comprehensive public hospital in China: development, validity and reliability (Yinhuan Hu; Zixia Zhang; Jinzhu Xie; Guanping Wang)
* The effects of **citizenship status** on **service utilization** and general **satisfaction** with healthcare: a cross-cultural study (Salma M. Khaled; Bethany Shockley; Hanan F. Abdul Rahim)
* **Quality of child healthcare at primary healthcare facilities**: a national assessment of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses in Afghanistan (Ghulam Farooq Mansoor; Paata Chikvaidze; Sherin Varkey; Ariel Higgins-Steele; Najibullah Safi; Adela Mubasher; Khaksar Yusufi; Sayed Alisha Alawi)
* Incidence, risk factors and associated mortality of **central line-associated bloodstream infections** at an intensive care unit in northern India (S B Mishra; R Misra; A Azim; A K Baronia; K N Prasad; T N Dhole; M Gurjar; R K Singh; B. Poddar)
* **Sharing sensitive health information** through social media in the Arab world (Eman Asiri; Mohamed Khalifa; Syed-Abdul Shabir; Md Nassif Hossain; Usman Iqbal; Mowafa Househ)
* Use of **proton pump inhibitors** among older Australians: **national quality improvement** programmes have led to sustained practice change (Nicole L Pratt; Lisa M Kalisch Ellett; Janet K Sluggett; Svetla V Gadzhanova; Emmae N Ramsay; Mhairi Kerr; Vanessa T LeBlanc; John D Barratt; E E Roughead)
* What **patients’ complaints and praise** tell the health practitioner: implications for **health care quality**. A qualitative research study (Katia Mattarozzi; Fiamma Sfrisi; Filippo Caniglia; Alessandra De Palma; M Martoni)
* Comparability of **health service use by veterans** with multisymptom illness and those with chronic diseases (Stella M Gwini; Andrew B Forbes; Malcolm R Sim; Helen L Kelsall)
* Are the **registry data reliable**? An audit of a regional trauma registry in the Netherlands (E E Horton; P Krijnen; H M Molenaar; I B Schipper; On behalf of the Trauma West Research Group)
* Beyond utilization: measuring effective coverage of **obstetric care** along the quality cascade (Elysia Larson; Daniel Vail; Godfrey M Mbaruku; Redempta Mbatia; Margaret E Kruk)
* Underlying influence of perception of **management leadership** on **patient safety climate** in healthcare organizations – A mediation analysis approach (Shao-Jen Weng; Seung-Hwan Kim; Chieh-Liang Wu)
* Improving **geriatric prescribing in the ED**: a qualitative study of facilitators and barriers to clinical decision support tool use (Ann E Vandenberg; Camille P Vaughan; Melissa Stevens; Susan N Hastings; James Powers; Alayne Markland; Ula Hwang; William Hung; Katharina V Echt)
* Developing **online accreditation education resources** for health care services: An Australian Case Study (Amanda Pereira-Salgado; Leanne Boyd; Matthew Johnson)
* Between the flags: implementing a **safety-net system** at scale to recognise and manage **deteriorating patients** in the New South Wales Public Health System (Charles Pain; Malcolm Green; Colette Duff; Deborah Hyland; Annette Pantle; Kimberley Fitzpatrick; Cliff Hughes)
* Perspectives: answering questions about **quality improvement**: suggestions for investigators (John Øvretveit)
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*Health Affairs*

April 2017; Volume 36, Issue 4

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| URL | <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/36/4.toc> |
| Notes | A new issue of *Health Affairs* has been published, with the theme ‘Maternity Coverage, Children, Disability & More’. Articles in this issue of *Health Affairs* include:* Designing A **Health System That Works** For The Tribe (Jessica Bylander)
* Eye on **health reform**: Cross-Currents And Complexities Abound (Timothy Stoltzfus Jost)
* Women In The United States Experience High Rates Of **Coverage ‘Churn’** In Months Before And After **Childbirth** (Jamie R Daw, Laura A Hatfield, Katherine Swartz, and Benjamin D Sommers)
* **Preventing Disability**: The Influence Of Modifiable Risk Factors On State And National Disability Prevalence (Neil K Mehta, Shivani A Patel, Mohammed K Ali, and K M Venkat Narayan)
* **Seat-Belt Use** In US Counties: Limited Progress Toward Healthy People 2020 Objectives (J Sunshine, L Dwyer-Lindgren, A Chen, and A H Mokdad)
* Physicians In Medicare ACOs Offer Mixed Views Of **Model For Health Care Cost And Quality** (Claudia L Schur and Janet P Sutton)
* **Electronic Health Record** Logs Indicate That Physicians Split Time Evenly Between Seeing Patients And Desktop Medicine (Ming Tai-Seale, Cliff W Olson, Jinnan Li, A S Chan, C Morikawa, M Durbin, W Wang, and H S Luft)
* After Nearly A Decade Of Rapid Growth, Use And Complexity Of **Imaging** Declined, 2008–14 (David C Levin, Laurence Parker, C D Palit, and V M Rao)
* Small Decline In **Low-Value Back Imaging** Associated With The ‘Choosing Wisely’ Campaign, 2012–14 (Arthur S Hong, Dennis Ross-Degnan, Fang Zhang, and J Frank Wharam)
* Evaluating The Role Of Payment Policy In Driving **Vertical Integration** In The **Oncology** Market (Abby Alpert, Helen Hsi, and Mireille Jacobson)
* Mystery Of The Chargemaster: Examining The Role Of **Hospital List Prices** In What Patients Actually Pay (Michael Batty and Benedic Ippolito)
* Industry-Led **Access-To-Medicines** Initiatives In Low- And Middle-Income Countries: Strategies And Evidence (Peter C Rockers, Veronika J Wirtz, Chukwuemeka A Umeh, Preethi M Swamy, and Richard O Laing)
* Prevalence, Disparities, And Determinants Of **Primary Cesarean Births** Among First-Time Mothers In Mexico (Sylvia Guendelman, Alison Gemmill, Dorothy Thornton, Dilys Walker, M Harvey, J Walsh, and R Perez-Cuevas)
* **Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits** Increase Use Of Dental Care, But Impact Of Expansion On Dental Services Use Was Mixed (Astha Singhal, Peter Damiano, and Lindsay Sabik)
* States With **Prescription Drug Monitoring** Mandates Saw A Reduction In **Opioids** Prescribed To Medicaid Enrollees (Hefei Wen, Bruce R Schackman, Brandon Aden, and Yuhua Bao)
* Most **Americans** Have Good Health, Little Unmet Need, And Few **Health Care Expenses** (Marc L Berk and Zhengyi Fang)
* How To Win The **Doctor Lottery** (Donna Jackson Nakazawa)
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*Australian Health Review*

Volume 41(2) 2017

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| URL | <http://www.publish.csiro.au/ah/issue/8488> |
| Notes | A new issue of *Australian Health Review* has been published. Articles in this issue of *Australian Health Review* include:* SCReening Evaluation of the Evolution of New Heart Failure Study (SCREEN-HF): early detection of **chronic heart failure** in the workplace (Umberto Boffa, Michele McGrady, Christopher M. Reid, Louise Shiel, Rory Wolfe, Danny Liew, Duncan J. Campbell, Simon Stewart and Henry Krum)
* **Advancing general practice nursing** in Australia: roles and responsibilities of primary healthcare organisations (Riki Lane, Elizabeth Halcomb, Lisa McKenna, Nicholas Zwar, Lucio Naccarella, Gawaine P Davies and G Russell)
* Accuracy of **rapid disposition** by **emergency clinicians** (Andrew Backay, Adam Bystrzycki, De Villiers Smit, Martin Keogh, G O'Reilly and B Mitra)
* Comparing clinical and demographic characteristics of **people** with **mental illness** in hospital- and community-based **residential rehabilitation units** in Queensland (Tom Meehan, Terry Stedman, Stephen Parker, Bretine Curtis and Donna Jones)
* Improving **care coordination** for community-dwelling older Australians: a longitudinal qualitative study (Desley Harvey, Michele Foster, Edward Strivens and Rachel Quigley)
* Addressing cost of **unwarranted medical care** in the medical curriculum (David Minh Tran and Malcolm P Forbes)
* Is **health systems integration** being advanced through Local Health District planning? (Carla Saunders and David J Carter)
* Scoping of models to support population-based **regional health planning and management**: comparison with the regional operating model in Victoria, Australia (Jean-Frederic Levesque, John J. M. O'Dowd, Éidín M. Ní Shé, Jan-Willem Weenink and Jane Gunn)
* Moving beyond the rhetoric of **patient input** in **health technology assessment** deliberations (Sally Wortley, Janet Wale, David Grainger and Peter Murphy)
* Creating a new investment pool for **innovative health systems research** (Tracey-Lea Laba, Anushka Patel and Stephen Jan)
* What will it take to improve **prevention** of **chronic diseases** in Australia? A case study of two national approaches (Sonia Wutzke, Emily Morrice, Murray Benton and Andrew Wilson)
* Clinical pathways for **suicidality** in **emergency settings**: a public health priority (Kay Wilhelm, Viola Korczak, Tad Tietze and Prasuna Reddy)
* Effect of the 4-h target on **time-to-analgesia** in an Australian emergency department: a pilot retrospective observational study (James A Hughes, C J Cabilan and Andrew Staib)
* Clinicians’ perceptions of decision making regarding **discharge** from public hospitals to **in-patient rehabilitation** following **trauma** (Lara A Kimmel, Anne E Holland, Natasha Lannin, Elton R Edwards, Richard S Page, Andrew Bucknill, Raphael Hau and Belinda J Gabbe)
* Comparison of cost determination of both **resource consumption accounting** and time-driven **activity-based costing** systems in a healthcare setting (Hasan Özyapıcı and Veyis Naci Tanış)
* The dynamic of **non-communicable disease control policy** in Indonesia (Yodi Christiani, Paul Dugdale, Meredith Tavener and Julie E Byles)
* Factors affecting **turnover** intentions among **public hospital doctors** in a middle-level city in central China (Fengfan Zhang, Zhenni Luo, Ting Chen, Rui Min and Pengqian Fang)
* Effects of **social integration** on **depressive symptoms** in Korea: analysis from the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (2006–12) (Jae-Hyun Kim, Eun-Cheol Park, Sang Gyu Lee, Yunhwan Lee and Sung-In Jang)
* Improving outcomes for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** with **cancer** requires a systematic approach to understanding patients’ experiences of care (Monica Green, Joan Cunningham, Dianne O'Connell and Gail Garvey)
* Developing the **rural health workforce** to improve **Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes**: a systematic review (Kylie Gwynne and Michelle Lincoln)
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*International Journal for Quality in Health Care* online first articles

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| URL | <https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-access?papetoc> |
| Notes | *International Journal for Quality in Health Care* has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:* Reducing the incidence of **pressure ulcers** in critical care units: a 4-year quality improvement (Annette Richardson; Joanna Peart; Stephen E Wright; Iain J McCullagh)
* How did market competition affect **outpatient utilization** under the diagnosis-related group-based payment system? (Seung Ju Kim; Eun-Cheol Park; Sun Jung Kim; Kyu-Tae Han; Sung-In Jang)
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*BMJ Quality and Safety* online first articles

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| URL | <http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent> |
| Notes | *BMJ Quality and Safety* has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:* Editorial: From **polyformacy to formacology** (Davina Allen)
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**Online resources**

*[UK] NICE Guidelines and Quality Standards*

<http://www.nice.org.uk>

The UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published new (or updated) guidelines and quality standards. The latest updates are:

* Clinical Guideline CG61 ***Irritable bowel syndrome*** *in adults: diagnosis and management* <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg61>
* NICE Guideline NG68 ***Sexually transmitted infections****: condom distribution schemes* <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng68>

*[USA] Patient Safety: What You Can Do to Be a Safe Patient*

The USA’s CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has produced this information for patients under their Healthcare-associated infections program.



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