

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Antibiotic Awareness Week

Tackling growing antibiotic resistance was the focus of Antibiotic Awareness Week 2016, coordinated annually by the Commission, in partnership with other leading agencies. Antibiotic Awareness Week is part of a global effort to encourage people to handle antibiotics with care to slow the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

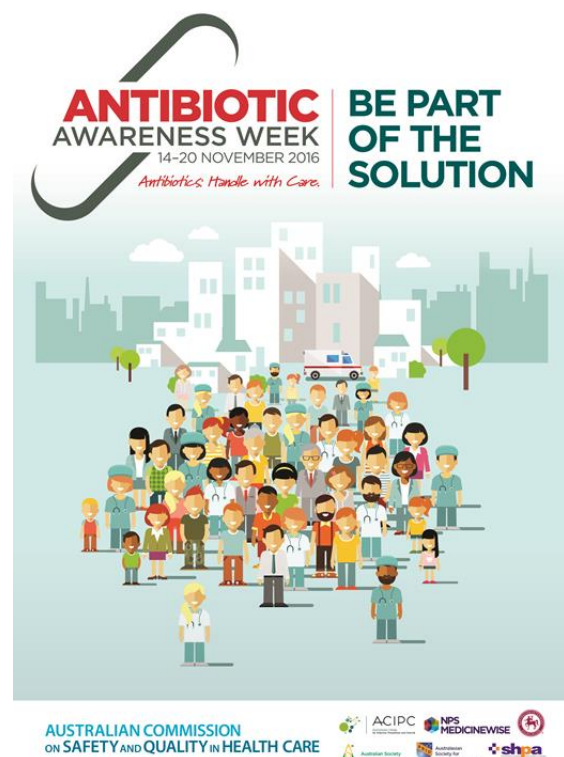
The collaborative 'One Health' approach in Australia – involving the Commission, the Australian Government Department of Health, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, NPS MedicineWise and the Australian Veterinary Association – aims to raise awareness of the importance of appropriate prescribing and use of antibiotics in hospital, at the vet, on the farm, and in the community.

The Commission released a range of resources in the lead-up to Antibiotic Awareness Week, to help health services and hospitals raise local awareness and identify ways to address this issue.

Numerous Australian health services, hospitals and organisations supported the week, highlighting examples of antibiotic stewardship, appropriate antibiotic use and the dangers of antimicrobial resistance.

While Antibiotic Awareness Week is an ideal opportunity to focus efforts to target antibiotic resistance and use, hospitals and health services can promote the importance of infection prevention and control, and the safe use of antimicrobials throughout the year. Commission resources:

[Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard](#)



Antibiotic Use and Resistance in Australia

Further Commission resources on antimicrobial stewardship.

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New online interactive atlas



The *Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation* (the atlas) is now available in an online interactive version, which makes it easier than ever to see results for specific areas and how they compare nationally.

The atlas, released in November 2015, presents a clear picture of substantial variation in health care use across Australia. The online interactive atlas allows users to interact and engage with the content and data in the atlas, including the availability of data in easy-to-download formats.

In addition, the Commission is developing a second atlas as part of the Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation series, which is due for release in the first half of 2017.

[You can try out the new online interactive atlas here.](#)

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Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard

The Commission has developed a draft Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard, in collaboration with consumers, clinicians, researchers and health organisations. This work is being undertaken in response to the recommendations of the [Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation](#).

The draft Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard is open for public consultation, and the Commission welcomes any feedback on the draft document.

The consultation opened on Wednesday, 23 November

and will close at 11:59pm on Wednesday, 11 January 2017.

[Download and provide feedback on the draft Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard.](#)

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November 2016

Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard

Consultation Version

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National roundtable on reducing inappropriate use of antipsychotics in older people

The Commission recently held a national roundtable on reducing the inappropriate use of antipsychotics in older people. The roundtable was held in response to the [Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation](#), which identified high and variable rates for prescribing of antipsychotics for people aged 65 and over.

Experts at the roundtable provided advice on key areas requiring attention to reduce inappropriate use of antipsychotics in older people with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. Participants at the roundtable identified and prioritised key strategies for action in the community, residential aged care and acute hospital settings.

The roundtable included a broad range of experts, including from the Commission's Cognitive Impairment Advisory Group and Medication Reference Group; respected academics and clinicians; acute care, primary care and residential aged care; consumers and carers; the Australian Government Department of Health, the Therapeutic Goods Association and NPS MedicineWise.

The Commission will consider the approach for action in response to the priority areas and strategies identified, and will report on the next steps in early 2017.

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National Model Clinical Governance Framework

Clinical governance is an integrated component of corporate governance of health service organisations. It ensures that everyone – from frontline clinicians, managers and members of governing bodies such as boards – is accountable to patients and the community for assuring the delivery of health services that are safe, effective, high-quality and continuously improving.

Good clinical governance ensures that the community and the health service organisation can be confident that systems are in place to deliver safe and high-quality care and continuously improve services.

The Commission is developing a national model clinical governance framework to be used by clinicians, managers, executives, governing bodies and state and territory departments of health as a guide to support effective corporate governance and improve the safety and quality of care. The clinical governance framework is based on the [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#), in particular the Clinical Governance for Health Service Organisations Standard and the Partnering with Consumers Standard.

A high-level advisory panel has been formed to advise the Commission in developing the framework, comprising senior clinicians, health service executives, representatives from health service boards, jurisdictional representatives and other experts. The panel is chaired by Ms Wendy Harris QC, a member of the Commission's Board.

The framework will help ensure that patients receive safe and high-quality care, and that the community is confident in the delivery of that care.

The framework will be supported by additional resources for specific target audiences including members of governing bodies such as boards, clinicians and consumers.

Further details on the framework will be available in 2017.

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Supporting patient decision making about antibiotic use

The Commission has a strong focus on supporting health services and clinicians to engage with patients as partners in their own care. As part of this, the Commission is developing a series of patient decision aids on key healthcare issues.

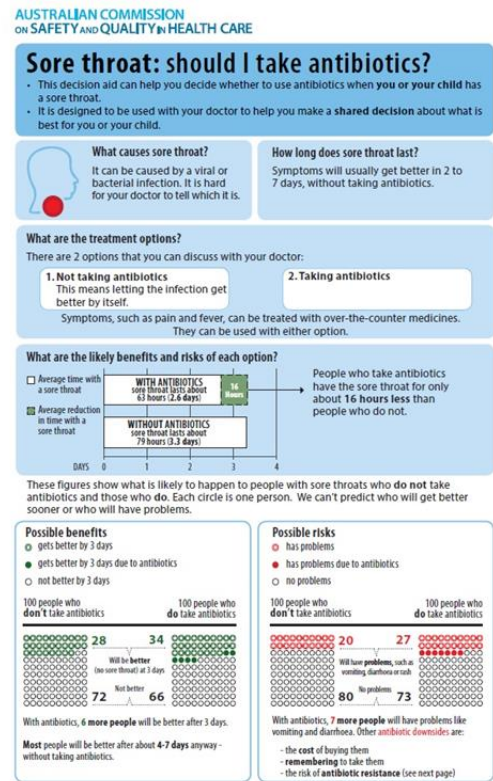
Patient decision aids are tools that can help patients and clinicians draw on high-quality, synthesised information about particular conditions, compare the risks and benefits of treatment options, and help clarify what matters most to the patient. Using patient decision aids help the patient and clinician weigh up options, and make a shared decision about what is the best option for the individual.

The Commission has released three antibiotic-themed patient decision aids to help clinicians and patients in the

clinical consultation. These patient decision aids help support decision making about antibiotic use when a patient has sore throat, acute bronchitis, or middle ear infection.

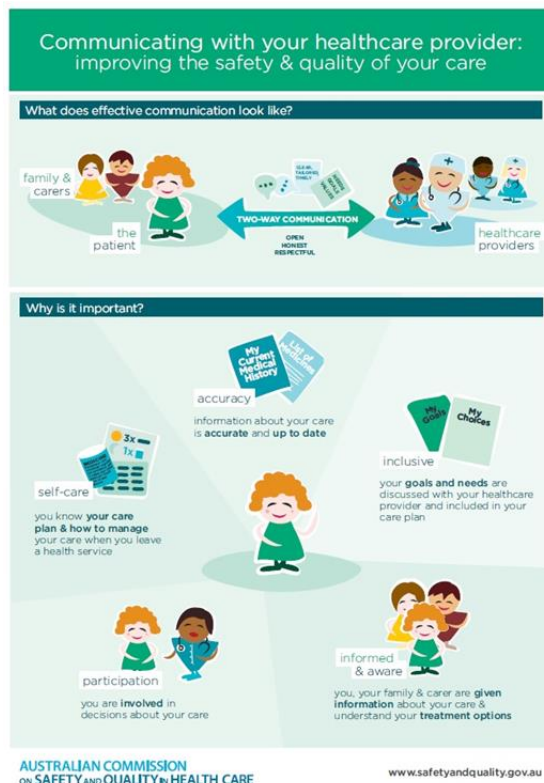
[Download the patient decision aids on antibiotic use on the Commission's website.](#)

Resources to support the release and uptake of patient decision aids are also in development and will be released in early 2017.



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Improving patient-clinician communication at transitions of care



To improve patient-clinician communication at transitions of care in hospitals, and support health service organisations meet the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, the Commission has developed information sheets for senior executives and clinical leaders, healthcare providers and consumers; and two consumer posters on communicating with your healthcare provider.

Effective communication and the accurate transfer of information between patients and clinicians have been shown to:

- prevent harm during care
- reduce the possibility of a person needing to return to hospital after they have been discharged
- positively influence a person's health outcomes.

Effective patient-clinician communication is particularly important when all or part of a person's care is transferred between providers, locations or different levels of care. This is known as 'transitions of care' and at these times there is an increased risk of communication errors occurring.

[Access the information sheets and posters here.](#)

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Updated specification for the hospital-acquired complications list

The Commission's national list of hospital-acquired complications (HACs) consists of 16 complications that can be used to support monitoring of the safety and quality of care.

The HACs specification contains the relevant International Classification of Diseases codes (7th, 8th and 9th edition) required to identify the 16 complications on the list.

In response to stakeholder feedback, minor updates have recently been made to the specification. To explain these minor coding updates, a change log is included in the specification.

[More information about the HACs list and the updated specification is available on the Commission's website.](#)

For queries on the HACs list and the updated specification, contact: indicators@safetyandquality.gov.au.

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Vital Signs

Each year, the Commission reports on the state of safety and quality of health care in Australia in the flagship *Vital Signs* publication.

Vital Signs 2016, released in November 2016, informs how the health system is performing, and how successful efforts are at ensuring safety and quality health care for patients. This, in turn, assists the Commission and its partners to determine priorities for the future.

Vital Signs 2016 is structured around three important questions members of the public ask about their health care:

- Will my care be safe?
- Will I get the right care?
- Will I be a partner in my care?

[To find out more about the safety and quality of health care, download *Vital Signs 2016* here.](#)



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Annual Report 2015-16

A snapshot of the work undertaken by the Commission in collaboration with the Australian, state and territory governments, patients, consumers and clinician partners; and private-sector colleagues across Australia, is now available in the Commission's *Annual Report 2015-16*.



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The *Annual Report 2015-16* contains details of the Commission's highlights for the 2015-16 year and achievements against the Commission's four priority areas:

1. patient safety
2. partnering with patients, consumers and communities
3. quality, cost and value
4. supporting health professionals to provide safe and high-quality care.

2016 also marks the Commission's tenth year of operations. The Chair's report in the *Annual Report 2015-16* highlights significant achievements over this time, including the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, the Clinical Care Standards and *Antimicrobial stewardship in Australian hospitals*.

[Download your copy of the *Annual Report 2015-16* here.](#)

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