

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH

- [Complete Our Website Survey](#)
- [Caring for Cognitive Impairment](#)
- [End-of-life care and the NSQHS Standards – fact sheet](#)
- [Knee Pain](#)
- [Guide to the NSQHS Standards for community health services](#)
- [Patient Blood Management](#)
- [National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines](#)

Complete Our Website Survey

The Commission is looking for feedback on the www.safetyandquality.gov.au website to ensure it best meets users' needs.

Responses to the survey will remain completely anonymous and will be pooled together.

Your participation in the research will be very valuable and we strongly encourage you to complete the survey.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

[Back to top](#)

Caring for Cognitive Impairment

CARING FOR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT



Join the campaign and make a difference
cognitivecare.gov.au #BetterWayToCare

Cognitive impairment (such as delirium or dementia), is a common condition experienced by people in hospitals that is often not detected, or is dismissed or misdiagnosed.

People with cognitive impairment in hospital are at significantly increased risk of adverse events and preventable complications. Harm can be minimised if cognitive impairment is identified early and risks are acted upon.

Caring for Cognitive Impairment is a new campaign to improve knowledge and care practices of cognitive impairment, provide better outcomes for patients and their families, hospitals and staff, and reduce the risk of harm.

The campaign was launched by the Commission on 28 January 2016 at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Kerry Packer auditorium in Sydney, with participants given a preview of the Tonic Health Media documentary, *On My Mind*, funded by the Commission. A panel of experts and a carer were led in a discussion by ABC Radio's Dr Norman Swan, and provided insights on the importance of caring for cognitive impairment.

[Join the campaign and show your support for Caring for Cognitive Impairment](#)

[Videos of the Caring for Cognitive Impairment launch are available to watch on the Commission's YouTube channel](#)

[Back to top](#)

End-of-life care and the NSQHS Standards – fact sheet

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.

The Commission developed the *National Consensus Statement: essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care* (the Consensus Statement), and has now released a fact sheet to help organisations provide evidence to meet some requirements in the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

Implementing the actions in the Consensus Statement will support the delivery of safe and high-quality end-of-life care.

[Download the *End-of-life Care and the NSQHS*](#)

The image shows the cover of a fact sheet. The top left corner has a teal box with the text 'safe and high-quality end-of-life care fact sheet'. The top right corner has a teal box with the text 'end-of-life care and the NSQHS standards'. Below these boxes is a white area with text. The text reads: 'Implementing the actions in the National Consensus Statement: Essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care (the Consensus Statement) will support the delivery of safe and high-quality end-of-life care within your organisation. This fact sheet can help your organisation to provide evidence to meet some requirements in the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. The essential elements and actions in the Consensus Statement align with the NSQHS Standards. This fact sheet outlines the links between the Consensus Statement and the NSQHS Standards. These links can be divided into three main areas:'. There is a bulleted list: '• advance care planning', '• clinicians and patients as partners in care', and '• communication.'. Below the list, it says 'A detailed list of the links between actions in the Consensus Statement and the NSQHS Standards can be found at Table 1.' and 'To systematically and comprehensively improve the safety and quality of end-of-life care you will need to implement systems to address all elements and actions in the Consensus Statement. However, not all of the essential elements or actions link directly to the NSQHS Standards or are discussed in this fact sheet.' and 'Version two of the NSQHS Standards is being developed for release in 2017/18. This version will include more specific actions about end-of-life care, linking more closely with the Consensus Statement.' At the bottom of the white area, there is a teal box with the text 'background to the consensus statement' and '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.' and 'The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) developed the National Consensus Statement: essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care (the Consensus Statement). Endorsed by Health Ministers in May 2016, the Consensus Statement sets out suggested practice for the provision of end-of-life care in settings where acute care is provided.' and 'Clinicians, health service executives and managers, policy-makers, educators and training providers can use the principles and ten essential elements of the Consensus Statement as a guide to improving the safety and quality of end-of-life care.' At the bottom of the fact sheet cover is a decorative graphic of colorful dots in shades of teal, yellow, and orange, with the text 'AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE'.

[Standards – fact sheet](#)

[Further information on end-of-life care](#)

[Back to top](#)

Knee Pain

There are varying levels of consumer understanding about diagnosis and treatment options for osteoarthritic knee pain. In Australia, patient expectations around the outcomes of surgery remain high and, in general, tend to underestimate potential harm.

The Commission has developed a consumer-targeted documentary focusing on appropriate care in managing knee osteoarthritis. This documentary features clinical members of the Knee Pain Expert Advisory Group and patient stories around managing osteoarthritic knee pain. It aired on ABC 24 on 20 February 2016 and can be viewed online.

[The Kneed documentary is available to watch on Tonic TV](#)

[Back to top](#)

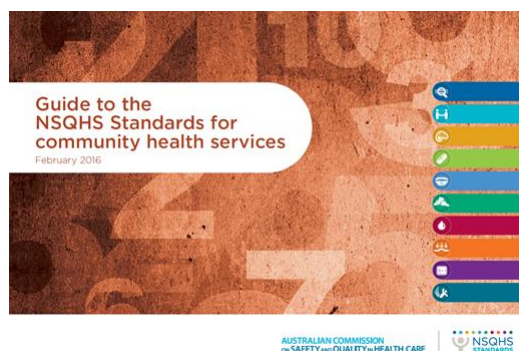
Guide to the NSQHS Standards for community health services

The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards are designed to drive improvements in safety and quality in health care nationally. There are 10 NSQHS Standards that cover areas where there is an increased risk to patient safety and where there have been incidents of patient harm as a result of care.

Accreditation to the NSQHS Standards is mandatory for all hospitals and day procedure services and a majority of public dental services. Community health services may be included in an accreditation assessment as part of a broader health service organisation.

The Commission has released the *Guide to the NSQHS Standards for community health services* to support community health services implementing the NSQHS Standards.

[Download the *Guide to the NSQHS Standards*](#)



Patient Blood Management

While blood and blood products can be lifesaving, their administration may also be hazardous for patients. Patients undergoing major elective surgery are at increased risk of needing a transfusion. Blood transfusions can be avoided in many patients through better patient blood management (PBM). PBM involves optimising blood volume and red cell mass, minimising blood loss and optimising the patient's tolerance of anaemia.

The Commission is leading the National PBM Collaborative to support improvements in the management of anaemia for patients having selected elective gastrointestinal, gynaecological and orthopaedic surgery procedures. Progress to date:

- The Collaborative has collected data on nearly 4,500 patient episodes, consisting of 20% gastrointestinal, 26% gynaecological and 55% orthopaedic procedures.
- Of the total procedures 89.5% received a haemoglobin test, 33% had iron studies performed and 33% had both prior to surgery.
- Across the 12 sites, the pre-surgical assessment of patients for anaemia ranged from 57% to 100%; and for iron studies the range was from 9% to 65%.
- The Commission has facilitated four project coordinator workshops and three learning workshops where teams share their experiences of local quality improvement processes; learn from colleagues; consult with experts in the field; gather new information and develop ideas for improvement.

The Collaborative will run to April 2017 and resources developed by teams will be shared more broadly later in 2016.

[More information on the PBM Collaborative](#)

National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines

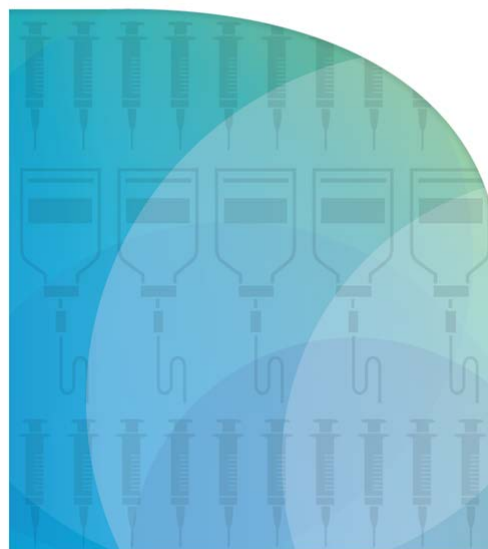
Incomplete or inaccurate labelling of injectable medicines and fluids (and the devices used to deliver them) is a recognised risk to the safe administration of medicines and is potentially preventable.

Improved labelling can reduce the risk of error and harm by safely communicating the medicines and fluids in syringes, bags and lines and the patients for whom they are intended.

The *National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines* (the Labelling Standard) has been developed as a national solution to the risks posed by erroneous administration of injectable medicines. It assists health professionals communicate safely about medicines removed from the manufacturer's original packaging and replaces the *2012 National Recommendations for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines*.

[More information on the Labelling Standard including what's new](#)

National Standard for
User-applied Labelling of
Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines



AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

[Back to top](#)

Follow us



Contact Us t: 02 9126 3600 e: mail@safetyandquality.gov.au
www.safetyandquality.gov.au