

## INFORMATION for Day Procedure Services

### Comprehensive Care Standard

# Risk screening and assessment

Identifying patients who are at risk of harm, and mitigating risks for those patients, is a core part of comprehensive care.

Day Procedure Services can implement different strategies to screen, risk assess and mitigate potential risks of harm to patients.

#### Purpose of element

The purpose of risk screening and assessment is:

- To gain an understanding of the degree to which a patient might be at risk of harm or poorer outcomes
- To inform decisions about the action the healthcare team needs to take immediately to address identified risks such as specific assessment processes, implementation of risk mitigation strategies, and escalation of care where needed
- To inform the development of the comprehensive care plan with the patient.

#### Key actions

- Foster a person-centred culture in delivering comprehensive care, including supporting risk screening and assessment processes that are person-centred
- Identify the risks of harm that are a priority across the organisation, including those specified in the NSQHS Standards
- Define and communicate organisation-wide processes for risk screening and assessment of those priority risks, and the appropriate models of care that mitigate those risks
- Establish a list of tools suitable and approved for use in the organisation to assess risk
- Describe and communicate the roles and responsibilities for risk screening and assessment in the organisation
- Identify key points in healthcare episodes when risk screening may be required
- Have policies and processes for escalating care of patients who are at high risk of experiencing harm
- Define and communicate models of care for high risk populations
- Provide access to training and education to support implementation of organisation risk screening and assessment processes, risk mitigation and escalation of care.



## Implementation in Day Procedure Services

- Day procedure services should have processes and practices that facilitate comprehensive care suitable to their setting and the patient population
- Pre-procedure preparation should include risk screening and assessment in alignment with the Comprehensive Care Standard to ensure that patients arriving for procedures are suited to the clinical environment. Triaging patients through the process should be built into multidisciplinary team responsibilities
- Risk screening and assessment processes for comprehensive care should be delegated to the most appropriate member of the clinical workforce
- Clinical pathways and models of care should match the organisational services
- On arrival for a procedure, risk screening and assessment should involve asking about any changes since pre-procedure assessment and documentation to ensure patient risks still fit into the model of care of the organisation
- Patients considered to no longer meet the acceptable risk profile for the organisation should be referred to a suitable service in a timely manner and according to patient need and preference.

## Questions?



For more information, please visit:  
[safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/comprehensive-care](https://safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/comprehensive-care)

You can also contact the Comprehensive Care project team at: [mail@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:mail@safetyandquality.gov.au)

