

Clinical Care Standards

Frequently asked questions for consumers

A clinical care standard tells you what care you should be offered if you have a particular clinical condition. You can use the clinical care standard to guide discussions with your health care professional about treatment options suitable to your individual condition.

What is a clinical care standard?

A clinical care standard is a nationally agreed statement describing the on key components of care health professionals and health services should offer patients for a specific clinical condition (for example, stroke or heart attack).

How can I use a clinical care standard?

You can use the clinical care standard to guide discussions with your health care professional about treatment options suitable to your individual condition.

Why clinical care standards are needed?

- To help patients and health professionals make decisions about the right care for a particular clinical condition
- Help people get the right care in the right place at the right time.

Is a clinical care standard the same as clinical guidelines?

No, they are not. Clinical practice guidelines contain details of all aspects of treatment and care for a specific condition. Clinical care standards highlight a small number of key areas.

Who develops the clinical care standards?

The Commission develops clinical care standards by working with:

- Consumers
- Health professionals (for example: doctors, nurses, GPs, physiotherapists, etc)
- Researchers
- Staff from health services

A Topic Working Group is established to guide the development. The group includes people with a mix of skills and backgrounds, including an understanding of the perspectives of consumers and their families.

How can I get involved?

Each draft clinical care standard goes through a public consultation process and the feedback from this process is used to further improve the clinical care standards. Everyone can provide feedback during the public consultation; you can do it by writing to us or via email.

If you would like to hear from us, you can:

- Sign up to the Commission twitter account [@acshc](https://twitter.com/acshc), or
- Sign up to the Commission's newsletters on our website www.safetyandquality.gov.au
- Contact the Clinical Care Standards team at ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au

More information on the clinical care standards program is available from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care website at www.safetyandquality.gov.au