AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

On the Radar

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On the Radar
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Reports

Nurse and midwife staffing models
e-brief Issue 2/2022
Gotsis T
Sydney: NSW Parliamentary Research Service; 2022. p. 30.

URL	https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/researchpapers/Pages/Nurse-and-midwife-staffing-models.aspx
Notes	Research paper from the NSW Parliamentary Research Service summarising the issue of nurse and midwife staffing models in Australia. This e-brief sets out the main features of legislated ratios and Nursing Hours Per Patient Day (NHPPDs), and the manner in which they are applied. It shows where in Australia each model is used and notes that in many States and Territories the NHPPD model is being actively reviewed. The brief observes that 'There is a substantial and growing body of research about the association between nurse/midwife staffing levels and patient outcomes. Overall, this research indicates that low nurse/midwife staffing levels are associated with poor patient outcomes and adverse hospital events'.

Journal articles

Embedding pharmacists in residential aged care: Why it's important to integrate resident- and system-level services
Cross AJ, La Caze A, Steeper M, Bell JS
Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research. 2022;52(4):263-265.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1002/jppr.1821
Notes	This editorial reflects on the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and the many issues around medication usage in residential care. The authors 'advocate for integrated resident- and system-level pharmacy services' and see embedded pharmacists having a number of roles and functions, including 'providing medication information and follow-up to residents and carers, medical practitioners, nurses, and care staff', ''as knowledge brokers' with roles "knowledge manager" (e.g. translate evidence-based guideline recommendations to local RACF policies and procedures), "linking agent" (e.g. facilitate collaboration between all stakeholders in medication management), and "capacity builder" (e.g. develop competencies related to quality use of medicines [QUM]'. They argue that there is 'a responsibility to use this opportunity to elicit the real system-level changes needed to optimise medication management to the benefit of residents and carers.'

For information on the Commission's work on Aged Care Quality Standards – Clinical Care, see
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/aged-care-quality-standards-clinical-care

For information on the Commission's work on medication safety, see
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety

A framework for digital health equity
Richardson S, Lawrence K, Schoenthaler AM, Mann D
npj Digital Medicine. 2022;5(1):119.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-022-00663-0
Notes	This piece offers a possible framework for digital health equity. It identifies 'digital determinants of health', including those at e individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. The authors suggest that 'The digital transformation of health requires leaders and developers to understand how digital determinants impact health equity'. Digital determinants of health (DDoH) are defined as 'conditions in the digital environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. The DDoH includes access to technological tools, digital literacy, and community infrastructure like broadband internet and operates at the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. They impact digital health equity, which is equitable access to digital healthcare, equitable outcomes from and experience with digital healthcare, and equity in the design of digital health solutions'.

Levels of Influence*				
Domains of Influence *(Over the Lifecourse)*		**Individual**	**Interpersonal**	**Community**	**Societal**

Domains of Influence (Over the Lifecourse)	Individual	Interpersonal	Community	Societal
Biological	Biological Vulnerability and Mechanisms	Caregiver–Child Interaction Family Microbiome	Community Illness Exposure Herd Immunity	Sanitation Immunization Pathogen Exposure
Behavioral	Health Behaviors Coping Strategies	Family Functioning School/Work Functioning	Community Functioning	Policies and Laws
Physical/Built Environment	Personal Environment	Household Environment School/Work Environment	Community Environment Community Resources	Societal Structure
Digital Environment	Digital Literacy, Digital Self-Efficacy, Technology Access, Attitudes Towards Use	Implicit Tech Bias, Interdependence (e.g. shared devices), Patient-Tech-Clinician Relationship	Community Infrastructure, Healthcare Infrastructure, Community Tech Norms, Community Partners	Tech Policy, Data Standards, Design Standards, Social Norms & Ideologies, Algorithmic Bias
Sociocultural Environment	Sociodemographics Limited English Cultural Identity Response to Discrimination	Social Networks Family/Peer Norms Interpersonal Discrimination	Community Norms Local Structural Discrimination	Social Norms Societal Structural Discrimination
Health Care System	Insurance Coverage Health Literacy Treatment Preferences	Patient–Clinician Relationship Medical Decision-Making	Availability of Services Safety Net Services	Quality of Care Health Care Policies
Health Outcomes	Individual Health	Family/ Organizational Health	Community Health	Population Health

BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	*BMJ Quality & Safety* has published a number of 'online first' articles, including: • Mixed-methods study examining family carers' perceptions of the relationship between **intrahospital transitions and patient readiness for discharge** (Alycia A Bristol, Catherine E Elmore, Marianne E Weiss, Lisa A. Barry, Eli Iacob, Erin P Johnson, Andrea S Wallace) • Editorial: **Grand Rounds in Methodology**: a new series to contribute to continuous improvement of methodology and scientific rigour in quality and safety (Perla J Marang-van de Mheen, John P Browne, Eric J Thomas, Bryony Dean Franklin) • Grand rounds in methodology: four critical decision points in **statistical process control evaluations of quality improvement initiatives** (Perla J Marang-van de Mheen, Thomas Woodcock)

International Journal for Quality in Health Care online first articles

URL	https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles
Notes	*International Journal for Quality in Health Care* has published a number of 'online first' articles, including: • **COVID-19 lockdown impact on quality of treatment and outcomes of STEMI and Stroke patients** in a large tertiary medical center: an observational study (Alex Galper, Racheli Magnezi, Anat Ekka Zohar, Bernice Oberman, Eyal Zimlichman) • A Quality Assurance Initiative on Improving **Cefazolin Peri-operative Redose Compliance** (Faiza Qureshi, Jamie Lee Romeiser, Paul F Murphy, Roderick Go, Ramon Abola)

Online resources

My life after ICU
https://www.mylifeaftericu.com/
This website provides information and resources for patients, families and caregivers who have experienced an ICU journey.
Designed for patients who have survived an Intensive Care admission, their families and care givers, Mylifeaftericu.com supports consumers as they navigate the challenges of recovery from critical illness. The site provides information on common conditions such as fatigue, flashbacks and memory changes to help provide context and allay anxiety. The ICU experience is explained, along with relevant topics for both children and adults to clarify medical terminology, procedures and machines frequently used in the ICU.

Tips For New Pharmacists – From An Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist
https://www.idstewardship.com/tips-new-pharmacists-antimicrobial-stewardship-pharmacist/
Webpage offering key tips for new pharmacists. The page also includes links to a number of resources. The tips include:
1. Prioritize patients that have urgent drug therapy issues
2. Prioritize review of patients on discharge
3. Look up any unfamiliar conditions and terms
4. Be aware not to assume that a positive culture is the same thing as an infection
5. Do not overlook basic antimicrobial stewardship principles.

COVID-19 resources
https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19
The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a number of resources to assist healthcare organisations, facilities and clinicians. These and other material on COVID-19 are available at https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19
These resources include:

- *OVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management* This primer provides an overview of three widely used tools for investigating and responding to patient safety events and near misses. Tools covered in this primer include incident reporting systems, Root Cause Analysis (RCA), and Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA).
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance
- *Poster – Combined contact and droplet precautions*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/infection-prevention-and-control-poster-combined-contact-and-droplet-precautions

- *Poster – Combined airborne and contact precautions*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-combined-airborne-and-contact-precautions

- *Environmental Cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control*
  www.safetyandquality.gov.au/environmental-cleaning
- *COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management – Guidance*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance
- *Safe care for people with cognitive impairment during COVID-19*
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-and-covid-19
- *Stop COVID-19: Break the chain of infection* poster
  https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-infection-poster-a3
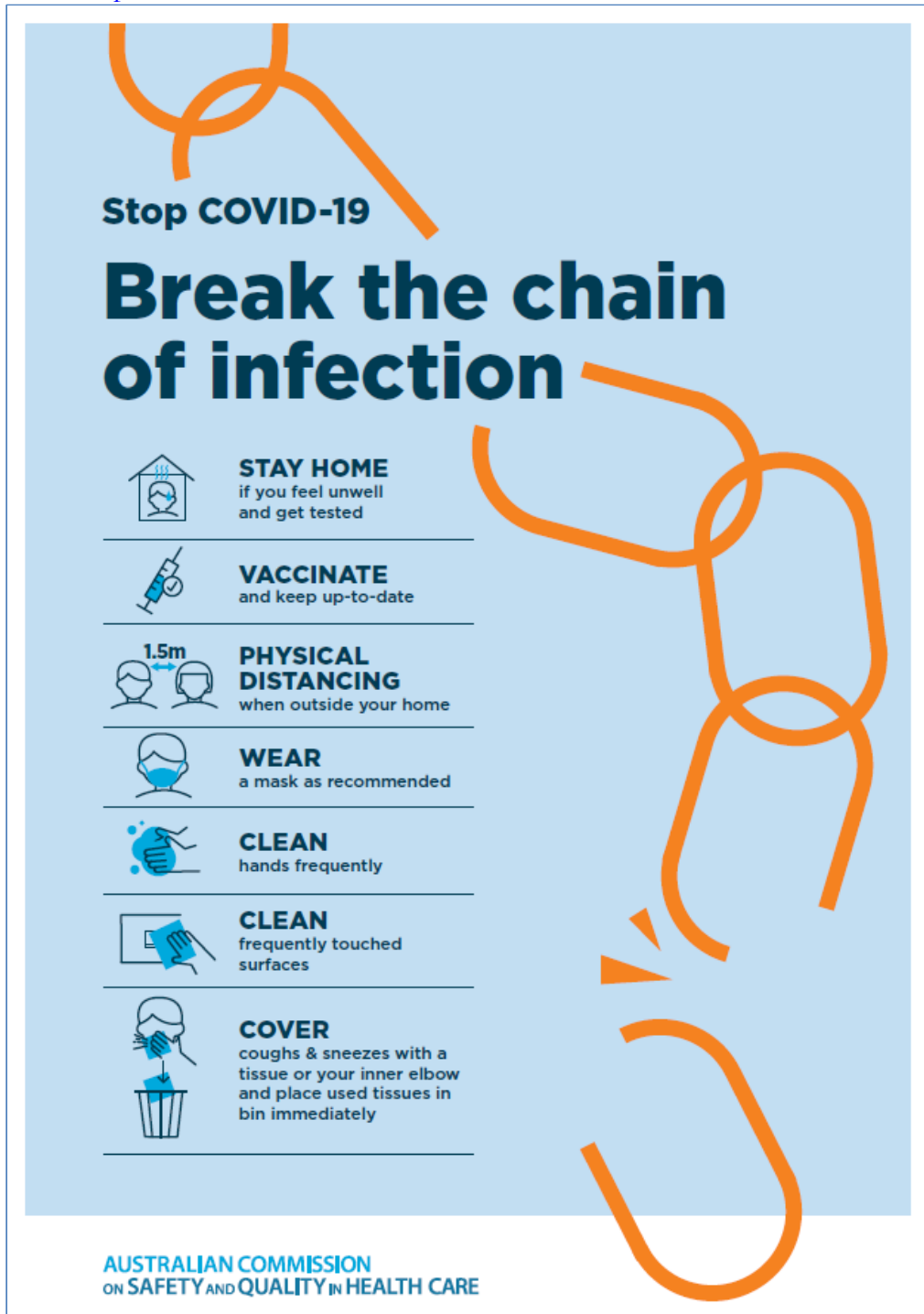
- *FAQs for clinicians on elective surgery* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5724
- *FAQs for consumers on elective surgery* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5725
- *COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers* https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-face-masks-information-consumers

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INFORMATION
for consumers

COVID-19 and face masks

Should I use a face mask?

Wearing face masks may protect you from droplets (small drops) when a person with COVID-19 coughs, speaks or sneezes, and you are less than 1.5 metres away from them. Wearing a mask will also help protect others if you are infected with the virus, but do not have symptoms of infection.

Wearing a face mask in Australia is recommended by health experts in areas where community transmission of COVID-19 is high, whenever physical distancing is not possible. Deciding whether to wear a face mask is your personal choice. Some people may feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the community.

When thinking about whether wearing a face mask is right for you, consider the following:

- Face masks may protect you when it is not possible to maintain the 1.5 metre physical distance from other people e.g. on a crowded bus or train
- Are you older or do you have other medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or respiratory illness? People in these groups may get more severe illness if they are infected with COVID-19
- Wearing a face mask will reduce the spread of droplets from your coughs and sneezes to others (however, if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms you should stay home)
- A face mask will not provide you with complete protection from COVID-19. You should also do all of the other things listed below to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What can you do to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Stopping the spread of COVID-19 is everyone's responsibility. The most important things that you can do to protect yourself and others are to:

- Stay at home when you are unwell, with even mild respiratory symptoms
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- Do not touch your face
- Do not touch surfaces that may be contaminated with the virus
- Stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people (physical distancing)
- Cover your mouth when you cough by coughing into your elbow, or into a tissue. Throw the tissue away immediately.

National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce
https://covid19evidence.net.au/
The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce is a collaboration of peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19. The taskforce is undertaking continuous evidence surveillance to identify and rapidly synthesise emerging research in order to provide national, **evidence-based guidelines and clinical flowcharts for the clinical care of people with COVID-19**. The guidelines address questions that are specific to managing COVID-19 and cover the full disease course across mild, moderate, severe and critical illness. These are 'living' guidelines, updated with new research in near real-time in order to give reliable, up-to-the minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented global health crisis.

COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit
https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/critical-intelligence-unit
The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) in New South Wales has developed this page summarising rapid, evidence-based advice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its operations focus on systems intelligence, clinical intelligence and evidence integration. The content includes a daily evidence digest, a COVID status monitor, a risk monitoring dashboard and evidence checks on a discrete topic or question relating to the current COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a 'Living evidence' section summarising key studies and emerging evidence on **COVID-19 vaccines** and **SARS-CoV-2 variants**. The most recent updates include:

- *Eating disorders and COVID-19* – What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prevalence of eating disorders?
- *Long COVID* – What is the evidence on the prevalence, presentation and management of long-COVID?
- *Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) use in healthcare settings* – What is the evidence that use of oseltamivir in healthcare workers with a symptomatic influenza diagnosis result in an earlier return to work and reduced absenteeism? What is the evidence that use of oseltamivir in adults and children with symptomatic influenza reduces influenza transmission in health care settings?
- *Alternative models of care for acute medical conditions* – What is the evidence on alternative models of care for managing patients with acute medical conditions outside of emergency or inpatient hospital settings?
- *Exercise and long COVID* – Is exercise helpful in individuals with long COVID? Is post-exertional symptom exacerbation a risk in long COVID?
- *Influenza and seasonal prophylaxis with oseltamivir* – What is the place or evidence for seasonal influenza prophylaxis (such as taking oseltamivir for 10 to 12 weeks continuously) in healthcare and aged care settings?
- *Rapid access models of care for respiratory illnesses* – What is the evidence for rapid access models of care for respiratory illnesses, especially during winter seasons, in emergency departments?
- *Current and emerging patient safety issues during COVID-19* – What is the evidence on the current and emerging patient safety issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic?
- *Post-acute sequelae of COVID-19* – What is the evidence on the post-acute sequelae of COVID-19?
- *Emerging variants* – What is the available evidence for emerging variants?
- *Chest pain or dyspnoea following COVID-19 vaccination* – What is evidence for chest pain or dyspnoea following COVID-19 vaccination?
- *Cardiac investigations and elective surgery post-COVID-19* – What is evidence for cardiac investigations and elective surgery post-COVID-19?

- *Breathlessness post COVID-19* – How to determine those patients who present with ongoing breathlessness in need of urgent review or intervention due to suspected pulmonary embolus?
- *COVID-19 pandemic and influenza* – What is the evidence for COVID-19 pandemic and influenza?
- *Budesonide and aspirin for pregnant women with COVID-19* – What is the evidence for the use of Budesonide for pregnant women with COVID-19? What is the evidence for aspirin prophylaxis for pre-eclampsia in pregnant women with a COVID-19 infection?
- *COVID-19 vaccines in Australia* – What is the evidence on COVID-19 vaccines in Australia?
- *COVID-19 pandemic and wellbeing of critical care and other healthcare workers* – Evidence in brief on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of critical care and other healthcare workers.
- *Surgery post COVID-19* – What is the evidence for the timing of surgery, and outcomes following surgery, for people who have recovered from COVID-19?
- *Disease modifying treatments for COVID-19 in children* – What is the evidence for disease modifying treatments for COVID-19 in children?
- *Mask type for COVID-19 positive wearer* – What is the evidence for different mask types for COVID-19 positive wearers?
- *Post acute and subacute COVID-19 care* – What published advice and models of care are available regarding post-acute and subacute care for COVID-19 patients?
- *Hospital visitor policies* – What is the evidence for hospital visitor policies during and outside of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- *Surgical masks, eye protection and PPE guidance* –What is the evidence for surgical masks in the endemic phase in hospitals and for eyewear to protect against COVID-19?