



## On the Radar

Issue 581

31 October 2022

*On the Radar* is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Inclusion in this document is not an endorsement or recommendation of any publication or provider. Access to particular documents may depend on whether they are Open Access or not, and/or your individual or institutional access to subscription sites/services. Material that may require subscription is included as it is considered relevant.

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### On the Radar

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### ***Now Open: Public Consultation on Sustainable Healthcare Module***

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/nsqhs-standards/sustainable-healthcare-module>

A Sustainable Healthcare Module (the Module) has been developed for public consultation by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care in collaboration with health service organisations, professional bodies, Primary Health Networks, consumers and other sector representatives. The Module acknowledges the importance of delivering environmentally sustainable, adaptable, and resilient healthcare services. It aims to protect the public from harm and improve the quality of care delivered to consumers.

Public consultation on the Draft Sustainable Healthcare Module is now open. You can access the Module for consultation on our website at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/nsqhs-standards/sustainable-healthcare-module> and provide feedback by:

- Responding to a short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38CVYFT>
- Providing a written submission via email to [NSQHStandards@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:NSQHStandards@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Consultation will close on **31 January 2023**.

To stay updated on the progress of the Sustainable Healthcare Module, subscribe here: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/about-us/latest-news/newsletters>.

*Join the launch of the first care standard on stillbirth*

<https://safetyandquality.tv/>

Have you registered for the online launch of Australia's first standard of care for stillbirth? The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is releasing the first national [Stillbirth Clinical Care Standard](#), livestreamed live from the [Annual National Stillbirth Forum](#).

**When:** Friday 4 November 2022, 12:00 – 1:00 PM AEDT

**Format:** Online launch and panel discussion.

Learn more about best practice in preventing stillbirth, investigations after stillbirth and the importance of bereavement care after perinatal loss.

Register at <https://safetyandquality.tv/>

**Expert panellists**

Award-winning ABC health and science reporter **Tegan Taylor** will host an expert panel including:

- **Associate Professor Liz Marles** – Clinical Director, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and General Practitioner, Hornsby-Brooklyn GP Unit
- **Professor Adrienne Gordon** – Neonatologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Clinical Professor at University of Sydney, and Chief Investigator at the Stillbirth CRE
- **Professor Caroline Homer AO** – Co-Program Director Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health at the Burnet Institute and President of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand
- **Professor David Ellwood** – Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Griffith University, Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Gold Coast University Hospital, and Co-Director of the Stillbirth CRE
- **Ms Deanna Stuart-Butler** – Senior Advisor, Indigenous Research and Chair of the National Stillbirth Indigenous Advisory Group at the Stillbirth CRE.

This event is relevant to all healthcare professionals involved in providing care during pregnancy, and after stillbirth or other forms of perinatal loss.

For more information email [ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au) or visit our web page

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards/stillbirth-clinical-care-standard>



## **New online User Guide for Reviewing Clinical Variation**

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
ACSQHC; 2022

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-variation/user-guide-reviewing-clinical-variation>

The Commission's [User Guide for Reviewing Clinical Variation](#) is now available in a new interactive online format, making it easier for health services to use data to support appropriate care and access practical case studies.

Regular reviews of clinical variation data to investigate and reduce unwarranted variation are a requirement of the [Clinical Governance Standard](#) in the National Safety and Quality in Health Services Standards.

To implement [Action 1.28](#), a health service organisation needs to collect data on its own clinical care processes or outcomes, and compare its performance to other services and/or evidence-based guidelines or clinical care standards.

The User Guide can support clinicians to use a clinical variation approach to align health care with patients' needs and prevent harm, as well as focus on the most effective care and reduce unnecessary treatment.

### **Six-step approach to reviewing clinical variation**

The User Guide presents a six-step approach to using clinical variation data to improve care. This format makes it easier to find the information you need. The steps are:

1. Select priority areas for exploring variation
2. Plan the project
3. Measure and review your data
4. Explore reasons for variation
5. Act to improve care
6. Monitor and report on impact of improvement activities.

### **Case studies put steps into action**

Practical [case studies](#) showcase best practice and innovation in the review of clinical variation, across healthcare settings. They include topics ranging from hip fracture surgery, stroke, cardiac events and colonoscopy, as well as new case studies on perineal trauma in childbirth, reducing preterm and planned early term births and improving end-of-life care.

If you have a case study suggestion or would like more information, please email [Atlas@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:Atlas@safetyandquality.gov.au)

## Reports

*Towards a thriving healthcare workforce. Deeble Institute Perspectives Brief No. 24*

Huggins K, Peeters A, Holton S, Wynter K, Hutchinson A, Rasmussen B, et al  
 Canberra: Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association; 2022. p. 18.

URL	<a href="https://ahha.asn.au/deeble-institute-perspective-briefs">https://ahha.asn.au/deeble-institute-perspective-briefs</a> <a href="https://ahha.asn.au/sites/default/files/docs/policy-issue/perspectives_brief_no_24_towards_a_thriving_healthcare_workforce.pdf">https://ahha.asn.au/sites/default/files/docs/policy-issue/perspectives_brief_no_24_towards_a_thriving_healthcare_workforce.pdf</a>
Notes	This Perspectives Brief from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Deeble Institute looks at the issues around health workforce wellbeing and the development of a sustainable healthcare workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impact upon the health workforce in Australia and elsewhere. Burnout, depression and other mental health impacts, workload and fatigue have led to people leaving the sector, changes in work practices and workloads. The authors observe that 'Protecting healthcare worker wellbeing is a priority for attracting and retaining the healthcare worker workforce.' The Brief examines areas for policy action and makes recommendations that could help ensure a sustainable health workforce.

*How Health Care Organizations Are Preparing for Climate Shocks and Protecting Vulnerable Patients*

Hostetter M, Klein S

New York: Commonwealth Fund; 2022.

DOI	<a href="https://doi.org/10.26099/486j-w130">https://doi.org/10.26099/486j-w130</a>
Notes	The Commonwealth Fund in the USA has produced this review into how climate shocks and severe weather events are testing health care organisations and their patient populations, particularly vulnerable populations. The document looks at how some organisations have been preparing for such events including examination of risks, infrastructure, access, equity and resilience.

*Guidelines for pharmacists supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with Medicines Management*

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Canberra: Pharmaceutical Society of Australia; 2022. p. 60.

URL	<a href="https://my.psa.org.au/s/article/Providing-Pharmacy-Services-to-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-People">https://my.psa.org.au/s/article/Providing-Pharmacy-Services-to-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-People</a>
Notes	The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has produced this guideline for pharmacists supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with medicines management.

For information on the Commission's work on medication safety, see

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety>

## Journal articles

*BMJ Quality & Safety* online first articles

URL	<a href="https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent">https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent</a>
Notes	<i>BMJ Quality &amp; Safety</i> has published a number of 'online first' articles, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical implementation gap: an interrupted time series analysis with interviews examining the <b>impact of surgical trials on surgical practice</b> in England (Kelly Ann Schmidtke, Felicity Evison, Amy Grove, Laura Kudrna, Olga Tucker, Andy Metcalfe, Andrew W Bradbury, Aneel Bhangu, Richard Lilford)</li> </ul>

URL	<a href="https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles">https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles</a>
Notes	<p>International Journal for Quality in Health Care has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abdominal surgical trajectories associated with failure to rescue.</b> A nationwide analysis (K Skyrud, J Helgeland, A K Lindahl, K M Augestad)</li> <li>• Accelerating Improvement: The <b>Pediatric Acute Care Cardiology Collaborative (PAC3) Data Timeliness Project</b> (M Graupe, A Tignor, K Veneziale, M Jensen, L Khadr, H Beckstrom, M Gister, K Hendricks, Madsen NL, F Roberts, S Youngberg, S Schachtner on behalf of the Pediatric Acute Care Cardiology Collaborative)</li> <li>• Development and Validation of Questionnaire Assessing the <b>Perception of Hospital Patient Safety Practices in Public Health Facilities of India</b> (Yuvaraj Krishnamoorthy, Gerald Samuel, Venmathi Elangovan, Krishna Kanth, Murali Krishnan, Isha Sinha)</li> <li>• Effects of an Educational Intervention for <b>Rational Cardiac Enzyme Requisitions in Critically Ill Patients:</b> A Pre-post Intervention Study (Natália Sarraceni Tedesco, Frederico Augusto Gurgel Pinheiro, José Mauro Vieira Júnior, Leandro Utino Taniguchi)</li> <li>• Outcomes among <b>patients admitted for non-ST segment myocardial infarction in the pre pandemic and pandemic COVID-19 era</b> – Israel Nationwide study (Elad Asher, Mha Alexander Fardman, Hezzy Shmueli, Katia Orvin, Daniel Oren, Natalia Kofman, Jameel Mohsen, Gassan Moady, Louay Taha, Ronen Rubinshtein, Oshero Azriel, Roi Efraim, Dabbah Saleem, Philippe Taieb, Eyal Ben-Assa, Tal Cohen, Robert Klempfner, Amir Orlev, Roy Beigel, Amit Segev, Shlomi Matetzky)</li> </ul>

## Online resources

### *Clinical Communiqué*

<https://www.thecommuniques.com/post/clinical-communicu%C3%A9-volume-9-issue-3-september-2022>

Volume 9 Issue 3, September 2022

This issue of *Clinical Communiqué* examines the limits of decision-making tools in situations of alert fatigue and failure-to-escalate. This issue highlights two cases, both involving post-operative patients, where electronic alerts were overridden and criteria for escalation were met but not actioned.

### *[USA] Effective Health Care Program reports*

<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>

The US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has an Effective Health Care (EHC) Program. The EHC has released the following final reports and updates:

- *Pharmacologic and Nonpharmacologic Treatments for **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder***  
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/ptsd-pharm-treatment/research>
- *Management of **Infantile Epilepsies***  
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/management-infantile-epilepsy/research>

### **[UK] NIHR Evidence alerts**

<https://evidence.nihr.ac.uk/>

The UK's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has posted new evidence alerts on its site. Evidence alerts are short, accessible summaries of health and care research which is funded or supported by NIHR. This is research which could influence practice and each Alert has a message for people commissioning, providing or receiving care. The latest alerts include:

- **Sexual assault** has lasting effects on teenagers' mental health and education
- Exercise programme improves arm function and pain after **breast cancer surgery**
- Creative communication tools can bring **research findings** to a wider audience
- **Parents' depression** can impact their children's mental health and school performance
- A good CQC rating was linked with better quality of life for **residents of care homes**
- Why do doctors delay **conversations with patients about their future care?**
- More people **survived a cardiac arrest** when first aiders received a GoodSAM alert
- Review finds little evidence to support gabapentinoid use in **bipolar disorder or insomnia**
- Almost 1 in 4 toddlers miss the **2-year development check**
- **Antenatal groups** for pregnant women with additional needs had a short-term benefit.

### **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:

- ***COVID-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->



## VISITOR RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IN PLACE

For all staff

### Combined contact & droplet precautions\*

In addition to standard precautions

#### Before entering room/care zone



1 Perform hand hygiene



2 Put on gown



3 Put on surgical mask



4 Put on protective eyewear



5 Perform hand hygiene



6 Put on gloves

What else can you do to stop the spread of infections?

- Consider patient placement
- Minimise patient movement
- Appropriate bed allocation.

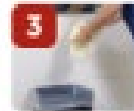
#### At doorway prior to leaving room/care zone



1 Remove and dispose of gloves



2 Perform hand hygiene



3 Remove and dispose of gown



4 Perform hand hygiene



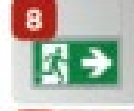
5 Remove protective eyewear



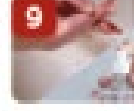
6 Perform hand hygiene



7 Remove and dispose of mask



8 Leave the room/care zone



9 Perform hand hygiene

\*e.g. Acute respiratory tract infection with unknown aetiology, seasonal influenza and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

For more detail, refer to the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare and your state and territory guidance.



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

**VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE**

For all staff

## Combined airborne & contact precautions

in addition to standard precautions

**Before entering room/care zone**

**At doorway prior to leaving room/care zone**

- 1

**Perform hand hygiene**
- 2

**Put on gown**
- 3

**Put on a particulate respirator (e.g. P2/N95) and perform fit check**
- 4

**Put on protective eyewear**
- 5

**Perform hand hygiene**
- 6

**Put on gloves**

- 1

**Remove and dispose of gloves**
- 2

**Perform hand hygiene**
- 3

**Remove and dispose of gown**
- 4

**Leave the room/care zone**
- 5

**Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)**
- 6

**Remove protective eyewear (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)**
- 7

**Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)**
- 8

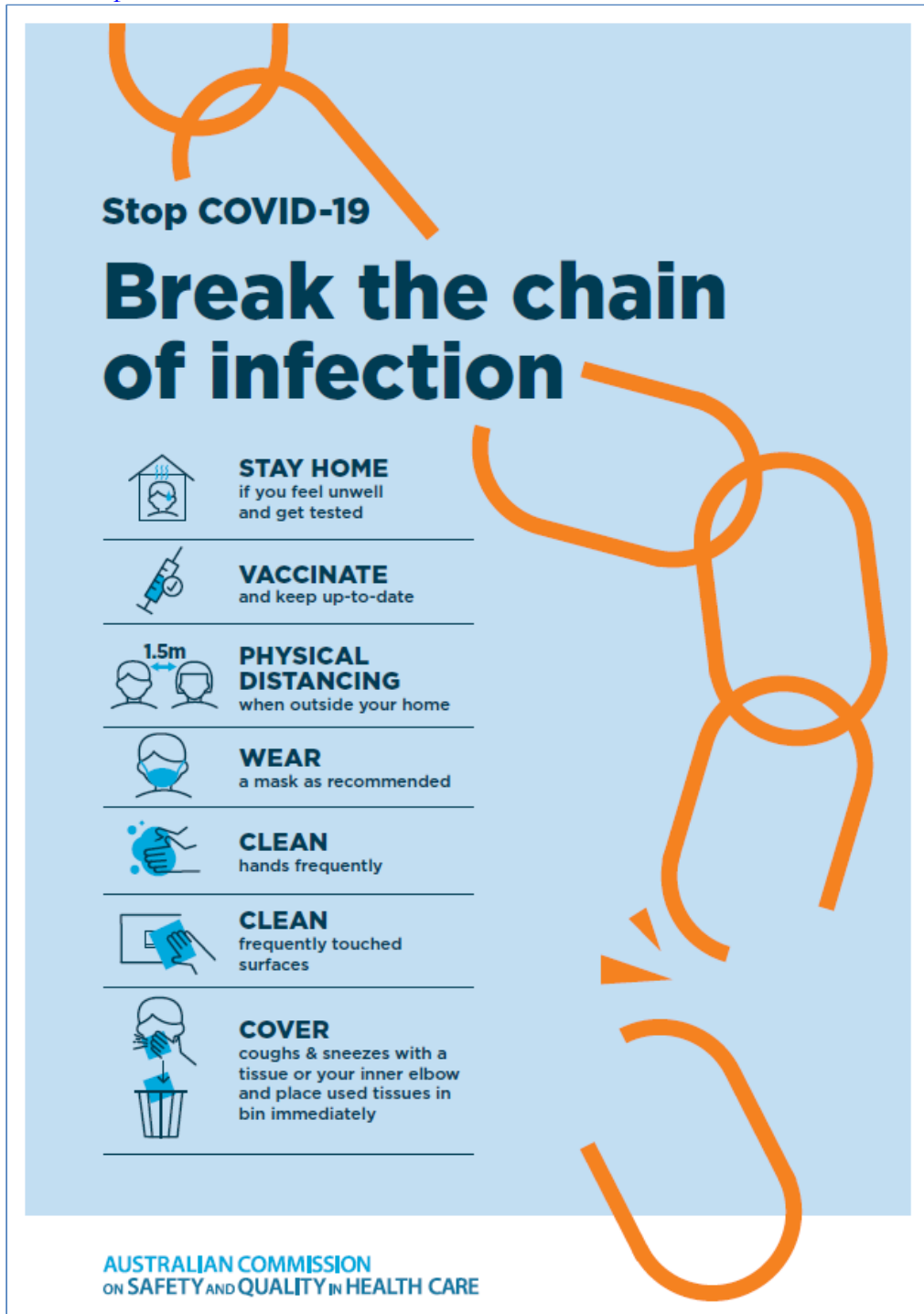
**Remove and dispose of particulate respirator (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)**
- 9

**Perform hand hygiene**

**KEEP DOOR CLOSED AT ALL TIMES**



- *Environmental Cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control*  
[www.safetyandquality.gov.au/environmental-cleaning](http://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>

**AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION  
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE**

**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:

- ***Paxlovid*** – What is the evidence for Paxlovid for treatment of COVID-19?
- ***Molnupiravir*** – What is the evidence for and regulatory context of molnupiravir for treatment of COVID-19?
- ***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?

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