



On the Radar

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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

Editor: Dr Niall Johnson niall.johnson@safetyandquality.gov.au

Contributors: Niall Johnson

Journal articles

A Systems-Level Evaluation Framework for Virtual Care

Lunney M, Modayil MV, Krajnak J, Woo K, Amlani S, Gray K, et al
Healthcare Quarterly 2023 Jul;26(2):43-50.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.12927/hcq.2023.27147
Notes	The COVID-19 pandemic saw the escalation of virtual care and has subsequently become a routine mode for some care. This piece describes the development and use of a 'a systems-level evaluation framework to inform virtual care service design and evaluation to take a more comprehensive approach to planning and implementing virtual care.'

Transforming Health Care from Volume to Value: Moving the Needle Through Population Health

Conway SJ, Kuye IO, Yeatts J, Jaffery J, Berkowitz SA

The American Journal of Medicine 2023 2023/09/01/;136(9):874-877.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2023.04.031
Notes	Recent years has seen an interest in questions of value, often focused on reducing “low value care”, but also touching on questions of efficiency, variation and appropriateness. This piece looks at ‘challenges in transitioning from volume-based to value-based care’ particularly from the perspective of academic or teaching hospitals/health services in the USA. The authors suggest that health services will need ‘o advance and formalize infrastructure in 3 core areas: organizational capabilities; provider engagement; and engagement of the patient, family, and community.’

Healthcare fragmentation, multimorbidity, potentially inappropriate medication, and mortality: a Danish nationwide cohort study

Prior A, Vestergaard CH, Vedsted P, Smith SM, Virgilsen LF, Rasmussen LA, et al

BMC Medicine 2023 2023/08/15;21(1):305.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-023-03021-3
Notes	The continuity or integration of care, especially for those with chronic conditions, has been widely identified as a means for providing improved care and outcomes. This paper reports a Danish study that aimed at looking at the impact of fragmented care at a population level. The ‘. Clinical fragmentation indicators included number of healthcare contacts, involved providers, provider transitions, and hospital trajectories.’ Using data on 4.7 million adults that covered ‘All healthcare contacts to primary care and hospitals during 2018’, the authors report that ‘The number of involved healthcare providers, provider transitions, and hospital trajectories rose with increasing morbidity levels.’ They also report ‘Care fragmentation was associated with higher rates of potentially inappropriate medication and increased mortality even when adjusting for the most important confounders.’ More positively, they also found that ‘Frequent contact to the usual provider, fewer transitions, and better coordination were associated with better patient outcomes regardless of morbidity level.’

BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	<i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and validation of the Overall Fidelity Enactment Scale for Complex Interventions (OFES-CI) (Liane Ginsburg, Matthias Hoben, Whitney Berta, Malcolm Doupe, Carole A Estabrooks, Peter G Norton, Colin Reid, Ariane Geerts, Adrian Wagg)

International Journal for Quality in Health Care online first articles

URL	https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles
Notes	<i>International Journal for Quality in Health Care</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide and Stigma: Connections and Challenges (Yu Xiao et al) • Provider-patient experiences and HIV care utilization among people living with HIV who inject drugs in St. Petersburg, Russia (Anita Raj et al)

Online resources

[UK] NICE Guidelines and Quality Standards

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

The UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published new (or updated) guidelines and quality standards. The latest reviews or updates include:

- NICE Guideline NG233 *Otitis media with effusion in under 12s*
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng233>

[UK] NIHR Evidence

<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:

- How to **identify dementia** in people with hearing loss
- Personalised risk assessments could reassure parents of children with a disorder caused by a **chance genetic mutation**
- Small amounts of **exercise** protect against early death, heart disease and cancer
- **Epilepsy**: what are the chances of having a second seizure?
- Do people with **severe gut problems** need emergency surgery?
- **Freedom to Speak Up Guardians** need more support, study finds.

[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:

- *Radiation Therapy for **Metastatic Bone Disease**: Effectiveness and Harms. Systematic Review*
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/radiation-therapy-bone-metastases/research>

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-prevention-and-control-poster-combined-contact-and-droplet-precautions>

















VISITOR RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IN PLACE

For all staff

Combined contact & droplet precautions*

in addition to standard precautions

Before entering room/care zone	At doorway prior to leaving room/care zone
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>Put on gown</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>Put on surgical mask</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>Put on protective eyewear</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">5</p> <p>Wear gloves, in accordance with standard precautions</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>Remove and dispose of gloves if worn</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>Remove and dispose of gown</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">5</p> <p>Remove protective eyewear</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">6</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">7</p> <p>Remove and dispose of mask</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">8</p> <p>Leave the room/care zone</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">9</p> <p>Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div>

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

- Always change gloves and perform hand hygiene between different care activities and when gloves become soiled to prevent cross contamination of body sites
- Consider patient placement
- Minimise patient movement

*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

- 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

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

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

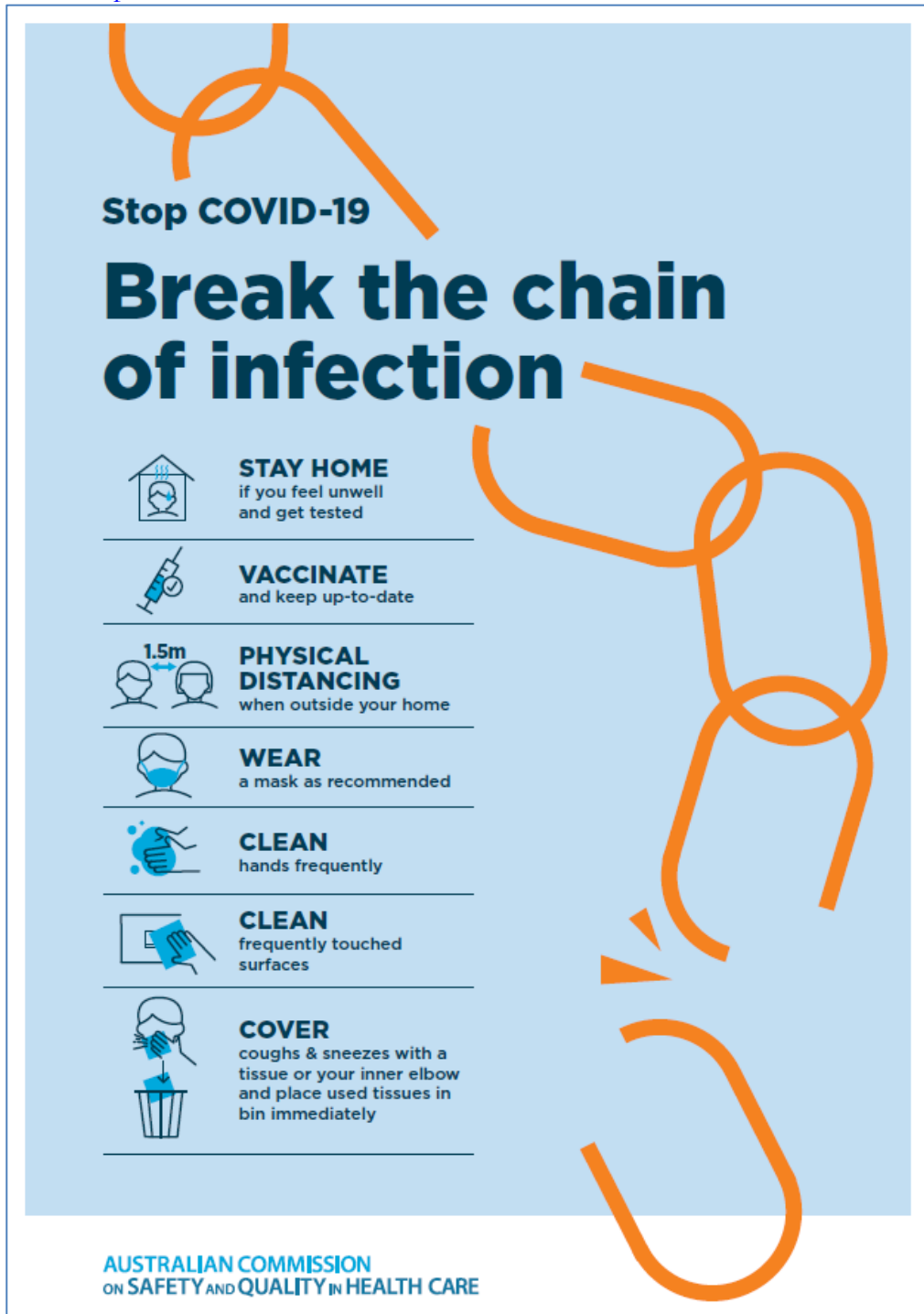
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

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
- *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>



- *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 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

<https://clinicalevidence.net.au/>

The National Clinical Evidence Taskforce is a multi-disciplinary collaboration of 35 member organisations – Australia’s medical colleges and peak health organisations – who share a commitment to provide national evidence-based treatment guidelines for urgent and emerging diseases.

This alliance established the world’s first ‘living guidelines’ for the care of people with COVID-19 and MPX.

Funding has now been discontinued for the National Clinical Evidence Taskforce and the COVID-19 guidelines as of 30 June 2023.

These guidelines are no longer continually updated but will remain online until the guidance becomes inaccurate and/or no longer reflects the evidence or recommended practice.

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:

- ***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?
- ***SARS-CoV-2 variants - retired living evidence*** – What is the evidence on SARS-CoV-2 variants that are under monitoring by the World Health Organization?
- ***COVID-19 vaccines - retired living evidence*** – What is the evidence on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and safety?
- ***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?
- ***Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines*** – What is the available regulatory and research evidence for bivalent COVID-19 vaccines?
- ***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?
- ***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.
- ***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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