



## On the Radar

Issue 622

3 October 2023

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### On the Radar

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Contributors: Niall Johnson

### Reports

*How patient experiences can guide the development of Long COVID health policy*

Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Issues Brief no: 53

Weigel B, Haddock R

Canberra: Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association; 2023. P. 51.

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| URL   | <a href="https://ahha.asn.au/publication/health-policy-issue-briefs/deeble-issues-brief-no-53-patient-experience-long-covid">https://ahha.asn.au/publication/health-policy-issue-briefs/deeble-issues-brief-no-53-patient-experience-long-covid</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Notes | This issues brief from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Deeble Institute examines how the issue of long COVID may be addressed in Australia .While long COVID is recognised as an important and common sequelae to COVID-19 infection, there has been a lack of clarity in definitions of and responses to long COVID. As the authors of this brief observe, 'The true burden of Long COVID on the Australian healthcare system is not well-understood and is likely underestimated.' The key arguments in this brief are a need for great identification and surveillance, consistent public health guidance, recognition of the impact of long COVID on individuals and the engagement with patients to learn from their lived experience of long COVID. |

For information on the Commission’s work on partnering with consumers, see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers>

## Journal articles

*Burn-out in the health workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic: opportunities for workplace and leadership approaches to improve well-being*

Smallwood N, Bismark M, Willis K

BMJ Leader 2023;7:178.

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|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DOI   | <a href="https://dx.doi.org/10.1136/leader-2022-000687">https://dx.doi.org/10.1136/leader-2022-000687</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Notes | Burnout is a widely recognised impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may have a lasting impact on health systems and health care workers (HCWs in this piece). This piece uses the Australian COVID-19 Frontline Healthcare Workers Study to ‘examine how key organisational and leadership approaches can facilitate mental health support for HCWs and identify strategies to support HCWs that are critical for supporting workforce well-being during the pandemic.’ Having identified 12 key approaches for supporting workforce well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, the authors assert that ‘Governments, healthcare organisations and leaders must invest and deliver long-term measures to value, support and retain the health workforce to preserve high-quality healthcare.’ |

*Low mortality rate after emergency laparotomy in Australia is a reflection of its national surgical mortality audit influencing futile surgery*

Pule LM, Kopunic H, Aitken RJ, on behalf of the A, New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit—Quality Improvement Working Party

British Journal of Surgery 2023;110:1367-73.

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| DOI   | <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/bjs/znad200">https://doi.org/10.1093/bjs/znad200</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Notes | Article in the <i>British Journal of Surgery</i> reflecting on the impact of a national surgical mortality audit. Using data from the Australia and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit—Quality Improvement (ANZELA-QI) for 2018–2022, the authors suggest that ‘compared with overseas studies, there was a lower early (within 72 h) mortality rate in ANZELA-QI.’ They view this as supporting ‘the hypothesis that the lower mortality rate after emergency laparotomy in Australia is likely a consequence of its national mortality audit and the avoidance of futile surgery.’ |

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| URL   | <a href="https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/hsrb/28/4">https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/hsrb/28/4</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Notes | <p>A new issue of the <i>Journal of Health Services Research &amp; Policy</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of the <i>Journal of Health Services Research &amp; Policy</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editorial: The adverse impacts of <b>racism and whiteness on indigenous health</b> (Paula Toko King and Marama Cole)</li> <li>• <b>Case mix-based changes in health status:</b> A prospective study of elective surgery patients in Vancouver, Canada (Jason M Sutherland, R Trafford Crump, Ahmer A Karimuddin, Guiping Liu, Kevin Wing, Arif Janjua, and Kathryn Isaac)</li> <li>• A qualitative study of the dynamics of <b>access to remote antenatal care</b> through the lens of candidacy (Lisa Hinton, Karolina Kuberska, Francesca Dakin, Nicola Boydell, Graham Martin, Tim Draycott, Cathy Winter, Richard J McManus, Lucy Chappell, Sanhita Chakrabarti, Elizabeth Howland, Janet Willars, and Mary Dixon-Woods)</li> <li>• Navigating the <b>micro-politics of major system change:</b> The implementation of Sustainability Transformation Partnerships in the English health and care system (Justin Waring, Simon Bishop, Georgia Black, Jenelle M Clarke, Mark Exworthy, Naomi J Fulop, Jean Hartley, Angus Ramsay, and Bridget Roe)</li> <li>• ‘By identifying myself as Métis, I didn’t feel safe...’: Experiences of navigating <b>racism and discrimination among Métis women</b>, Two-Spirit and gender diverse community members in Victoria, Canada (Willow Paul, Renée Monchalin, Monique Auger, and Carly Jones)</li> <li>• Twenty years of <b>monitoring acute stroke care in Australia</b> through the national stroke audit programme (1999–2019): A cross-sectional study (Tara Purvis, Dominique A Cadilhac, Kelvin Hill, Megan Reyneke, Muideen T Olaiya, Lachlan L Dalli, Joosup Kim, Lisa Murphy, Bruce CV Campbell, and Monique F Kilkenny)</li> <li>• Interrupted time series evaluation of the impact of a <b>dementia wellbeing service</b> on avoidable hospital admissions for people with dementia in Bristol, England (Tim Jones, Maria Theresa Redaniel, and Yoav Ben-Shlomo)</li> <li>• <b>Optimising the prescribing of drugs that may cause dependency:</b> An evidence and gap map of systematic reviews (Liz Shaw, Michael Nunns, Simon Briscoe, Ruth Garside, Malcolm Turner, GJ Melendez-Torres, Hassanat M Lawal, and Jo Thompson Coon)</li> </ul> |

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| Notes | <p>A new issue of <i>BMJ Leader</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of <i>BMJ Leader</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are we not <b>optimising healthcare?</b> (Thomas Handley, Max Denning, Marc L Melcher)</li> <li>• Reflections on the process of adapting <b>hospital performance measures for an LMIC tertiary care setup</b> (Ashar Alam)</li> <li>• <b>Focus on people</b>, the rest will follow (Navina Evans, Cheryl Evans)</li> <li>• <b>Burn-out in the health workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic:</b> opportunities for workplace and leadership approaches to improve well-being (Natasha Smallwood, Marie Bismark, Karen Willis)</li> <li>• Evolution of a <b>physician wellness, engagement and excellence strategy:</b> lessons learnt in a mental health setting (Treena Wilkie, Tania Tajirian, Anupam Thakur, Smit Mistry, Faisal Islam, Vicky Stergiopoulos)</li> <li>• How does authentic leadership influence the <b>safety climate in nursing?</b> (Majd T Mrayyan, Nijmeh AL-Atiyyat, Sami Al-Rawashdeh, Abdullah Aljunmeeyn, Hamzeh Y Abunab, Wafa'a W Othman, M N Sayahen)</li> <li>• <b>Authentic leadership</b> at the Cleveland Clinic: psychological safety in the midst of crisis (Tracy Hopkins Porter, Jessica A Peck, B Bolwell, J K Stoller)</li> <li>• Attributes, skills and actions of <b>clinical leadership in nursing</b> as reported by hospital nurses: a cross-sectional study (Majd T Mrayyan, Abdullah Aljunmeeyn, Hamzeh Y Abunab, Ola A Kutah, Imad Alfayoumi, A A Khait)</li> <li>• When stigma meets crisis: <b>reducing stigma</b> by association during COVID-19 (Olga Kokshagina, Eleonore Bridier, Jamal Hakim)</li> <li>• What, why and how of <b>leadership and management standards in health and social care</b> (Eren Behget, Richard Leech, Clare Felicity Jane Price-Dowd, EAW St George)</li> <li>• <b>Leading COVID-19 vaccination centres</b> in England: managing and overcoming challenges (Samuel David Jee)</li> <li>• Importance of <b>inclusive leadership in the pandemic response:</b> the critical role of the physician (Lauren Destino, Anna Lin, Roshni Mathew, Tzielan Lee, Natali Aziz, Rebecca Claura, Joe Kim, Grace Lee)</li> <li>• Seven <b>leadership and followership lessons</b> from kidney transplantation during lockdown (Megan Joffe, Stephen O'Neill, Zachery Ahmed, Aisling Courtney, Tim Brown)</li> </ul> |

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| 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>Low-value’ clinical care in general practice:</b> a cross-sectional analysis of low value care in early-career GPs’ practice. (Anna Ralston et al)</li> <li>• Innovative approaches to <b>analysing aged care falls incident data:</b> International Classification for Patient Safety and correspondence analysis (Karla Seaman et al)</li> <li>• The Use of <b>Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Detecting and Predicting Falls</b> Within the Healthcare Setting: A Systematic Review (Vincent Quoc-Nam Trinh et al)</li> <li>• Improving the quality of <b>hospital sterilization</b> process using FMEA, fuzzy logic and machine learning: Experience in tertiary dental centre (Amine En-Naaoui et al)</li> <li>• ‘Virtually daily grief’—Understanding distress in <b>health practitioners involved in a regulatory complaints process:</b> a qualitative study in Australia (Susan Biggar et al)</li> <li>• EPERCAS Study. Strategies for Preventing <b>Medication Administration Errors in Nursing Homes</b> (Esther Laso Lucas et al)</li> <li>• The Impact of <b>Hospital Command Centre</b> on Patient Flow and Data Quality: findings from the UK NHS (Teumzghi F Mebrahtu et al)</li> </ul> |

## 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 NG148 *Acute kidney injury: prevention, detection and management*  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng148>
- NICE Guideline NG164 *COVID-19 rapid guideline: haematopoietic stem cell transplantation*  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng164>

## 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>

**STOP 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    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Perform hand hygiene                                 | <b>1</b> Remove and dispose of gloves if worn |
| <b>2</b> Put on gown                                          | <b>2</b> Perform hand hygiene                 |
| <b>3</b> Put on surgical mask                                 | <b>3</b> Remove and dispose of gown           |
| <b>4</b> Put on protective eyewear                            | <b>4</b> Perform hand hygiene                 |
| <b>5</b> Wear gloves, in accordance with standard precautions | <b>5</b> Remove protective eyewear            |
|                                                               | <b>6</b> Perform hand hygiene                 |
|                                                               | <b>7</b> Remove and dispose of mask           |
|                                                               | <b>8</b> Leave the room/care zone             |
|                                                               | <b>9</b> Perform hand hygiene                 |

**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

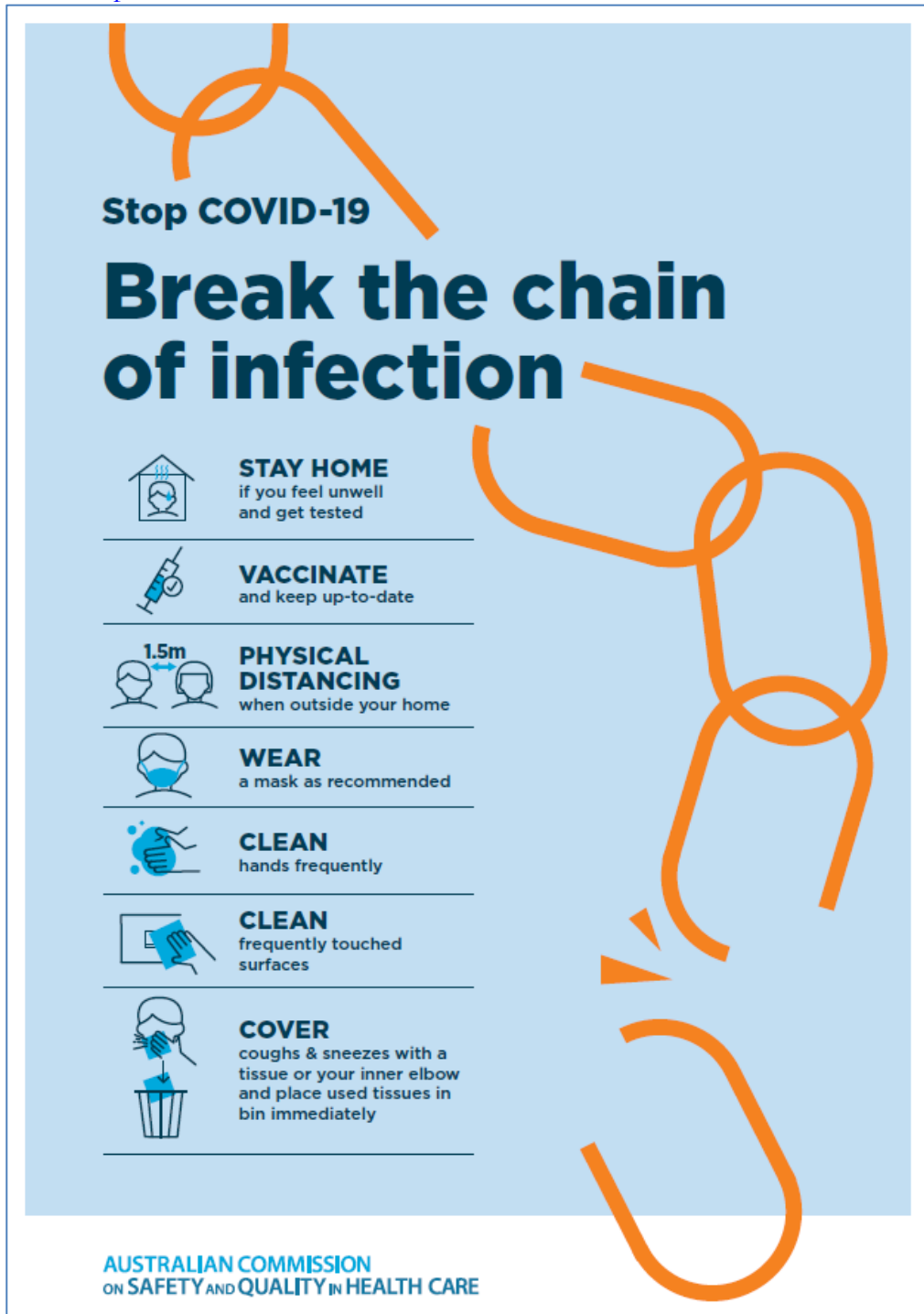
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

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](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>





- *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:

- ***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?
- ***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?
- ***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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### **Disclaimer**

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