



On the Radar

Issue 623

9 October 2023

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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Reports

Net zero care: what will it take?

McGeoch L, Hardie T, Coxon C, Cameron G

London: The Health Foundation; 2023.

URL	https://www.health.org.uk/publications/long-reads/net-zero-care-what-will-it-take
Notes	<p>With the desire to achieve decarbonisation across the economy there is a recognition that healthcare is an important source of emissions and will need to contribute if there is to be significant decarbonisation. This piece from The Health Foundation in the UK notes that the National Health Service (NHS) in England ‘has set targets to reach net zero by 2040 for direct emissions and 2045 for emissions it influences’. The piece ‘focuses on the critical role of care delivery in achieving a net zero NHS because it contributes both directly and indirectly to greenhouse gas emissions.’ The authors focus on ‘four main areas for action to support the shift to net zero care’:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. supporting staff to build the skills, knowledge and providing dedicated time to design and implement the necessary changes to care delivery. 2. prioritising environmental sustainability 3. aligning on NHS net zero, including national policy approaches

	4. identifying the most carbon-intensive aspects of care and developing lower-carbon solutions.
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For information on the Commission’s work on sustainable healthcare, see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/nsqhs-standards/sustainable-healthcare-module>

Journal articles

Efficacy, Safety, and Evaluation Criteria of mHealth Interventions for Depression: Systematic Review
 Duarte-Díaz A, Perestelo-Pérez L, Gelabert E, Robles N, Pérez-Navarro A, Vidal-Alaball J, et al
 JMIR Ment Health 2023;10:e46877.

The effects of treatment via telemedicine interventions for patients with depression on depressive symptoms and quality of life: a systematic review and meta-analysis
 Shih Y-H, Wang J-Y, Chou P-H, Lin K-H
 Annals of Medicine 2023;55(1):1092-1101.

DOI	Duarte-Díaz et al https://doi.org/10.2196/46877 Shih et al https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2023.2187078
Notes	A pair of articles that look at some of the different modalities for delivering care for depression. These articles review the evidence on depression treatments delivered by mobile technologies and telehealth. Both these reviews found that these approaches can be effective in delivering care.

For information on the Commission’s work on mental health see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/mental-health>

For information on the National Safety and Quality Digital Mental Health Standards, see <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/national-safety-and-quality-digital-mental-health-standards>

Australian Health Review
 Volume 47, Number 5, October 2023

URL	https://www.publish.csiro.au/ah/issue/11462
Notes	A new issue of <i>Australian Health Review</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of <i>Australian Health Review</i> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External validation of the Health Care Homes hospital admission risk stratification tool in the Aboriginal Australian population of the Northern Territory (Laura Goddard, Emma Field, Judy Moran, Julie Franzon, Yuejen Zhao and Paul Burgess) • Evaluating an implementation of the Australian National Guidelines for the On-Screen Display of Discharge Summaries (Masarrat Mahera, Hamish Rodda, Nick Monypenny and Paul Wembridge) • Experience of primary caregivers in utilising an mHealth application for remote dental screening in preschool children (Somayyeh Azimi, Chrisan Fernando, Mohamed Estai, Jilen Patel, Desiree Silva and Marc Tennant) • The typing is on the wall: Australia’s healthcare future needs a digitally capable workforce (Leanna Woods, Anna Janssen, Samantha Robertson, Clare Morgan, Kerrynt Butler-Henderson, A Burton-Jones and C Sullivan) • Comparison of patient responses to telehealth satisfaction surveys in rural and urban populations in Queensland (Edwin P Greenup and Daniel Best)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the first Australian public and health-professional palliative care advice service: exploring caller needs and gaps in care (David J T Marco, Esther McMillan-Drendel, Jennifer A M Philip, Theresa Williamson and B Le) • Addressing the end-of-life actions in the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (2nd edn): a national survey (Elise Button, Sara Baniahmadi, Shirley Chambers and Patsy Yates) • Emerging health and social policy considerations for safe and quality end-of-life care in Australia – the evidence, gaps and challenges (Deb Rawlings, Raechel Damarell, Paul Tait, Amal Chakraborty, Angie Dalli, Kim Devery and Jennifer Tieman) • Development of a novel and more holistic approach for assessing impact in health and medical research: the Research Impact Assessment Framework (Robyn L Ward, Don Nutbeam, Wilfred Mijnhardt, Philip Nelson, Angela Todd, Mark I Rees, Janine Richards, Nadia N Khan, Isaac Ho and S Chung) • Government-supported clinical knowledge and information resource portals are key to ensuring quality, safe health care and evidence-based practice – the Australian context (Gemma Siemensma, Alice Anderson and Cassandra Gorton) • Outlier or handover: outcomes for General Medicine inpatients (S Thompkins, S Schaefer, D Toh, C Horwood and C H Thompson) • The Clinical Trials Assistance Pilot: reducing the financial burden of cancer clinical trials for patients in regional New South Wales (Pareoranga Luiten-Apirana, Monica Gendi, Jai Bernard, Zhicheng Li, Rhiannon Edge, Bradley Gellert, Annie Miller, Maria Mury, Niki Sansey, Lindsey Jasicki and Sean Stolp) • Implementation of physiotherapy-led lung ultrasound in the intensive care unit (Jane Lockstone, Matt Brain, Nadia Zalucki and G Ntoumenopoulos) • Implementation of an in-reach rehabilitation program can increase the rate of discharge home from acute hospital care (Jane Wu, Christine T Shiner, Steven G Faux and Yuriko Watanabe) • Translating aspects of The National Rural and Remote Nursing Generalist Framework 2023–2027 into practice: opportunities and considerations (H Beks, S Clayden and V L Versace) • Clinical governance implications of a Victorian coronial finding regarding contrast-related anaphylaxis for health services and private providers of radiology services (Belle Lu, Anne-Maree Kelly and Tina Cockburn)
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Health Affairs Scholar

Volume 1, Issue 2, August 2023

URL	https://academic.oup.com/healthaffairsscholar/issue/1/2
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>Health Affairs Scholar</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of <i>Health Affairs Scholar</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing homes underreport antipsychotic use but overreport diagnoses qualifying for appropriate use (Amanda C Chen and David C Grabowski) • Reduced health care utilization among young children of immigrants after Donald Trump's election and proposed public charge rule (Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba et al) • Understanding categories of postpartum care use among privately insured patients in the United States: a cluster-analytic approach (J D Interrante et al)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial disparities in inpatient palliative care consultation among frail older patients undergoing high-risk elective surgical procedures in the United States: a cross-sectional study of the national inpatient sample (Kyung Mi Kim et al) • Still no differences in the length or scope of primary and ambulatory care for Medicaid and commercial patients (Leighton Ku) • Prevalence of suicide risk among a national sample of individuals referred from a primary care subpopulation, 2017–2020 (Virna Little et al) • Characterizing industry payments to US teaching hospitals and affiliated physicians: a cross-sectional analysis of the Open Payments datasets from 2016 to 2022 (Elle Pope and Neil Sehgal) • Rates of nursing home closures were relatively stable over the past decade, but warrant continuous monitoring (Kelly Hughes et al) • Beyond demonstrations: implementing a primary care hybrid payment model in Medicare (Robert A Berenson et al)
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Health Affairs Scholar

Volume 1, Issue 3, September 2023

URL	https://academic.oup.com/healthaffairsscholar/issue/1/3
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>Health Affairs Scholar</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of <i>Health Affairs Scholar</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access challenges for patients with limited English proficiency: a secret-shopper study of in-person and telehealth behavioral health services in California safety-net clinics (Lori Uscher-Pines et al) • Neighborhood context and children's health care utilization and health outcomes: a comprehensive descriptive analysis of national survey data (Izabela E Annis et al) • Firearm violence exposure and health in 2 national samples of Black and American Indian/Alaska Native adults (Daniel C Semenza et al) • Unaddressed functional difficulty and care support among White, Black, and Hispanic older adults in the last decade (Jun Li et al) • Hospitals' uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (Jordan H Rhodes et al) • Earnings, job satisfaction, and turnover of nurse practitioners across employment settings (Joseph G P Hnath et al)

Health Affairs

Volume 42, Number 10, October 2023

URL	https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/42/10
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>Health Affairs</i> has been published with the themes 'Tackling Structural Racism In Health'. Articles in this issue of <i>Health Affairs</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racism, Power, And Health Equity: The Case Of Tenant Organizing (Jamila Michener) • Legislating Inequity: Structural Racism In Groups Of State Laws And Associations With Premature Mortality Rates (Jaquelyn L Jahn, Dougie Zubizarreta, Jarvis T Chen, Belinda L Needham, Goleen Samari, Alecia J McGregor, Megan Daugherty Douglas, S Bryn Austin, and Madina Agénor) • Race And Racial Perceptions Shape Burden Tolerance For Medicaid And The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S F Haeder, and D Moynihan) • Racial Resentment And Administrative Burden Tolerance: The Case Of Expanded SNAP Work Requirements (Carolyn Barnes)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid And SNAP Advance Equity But Sometimes Have Hidden Racial And Ethnic Barriers (Leighton Ku) • Proposing A Racism-Conscious Approach To Policy Making And Health Care Practices (Shekinah A Fashaw-Walters, and Cydney M McGuire) • Mitigating Racial And Ethnic Bias And Advancing Health Equity In Clinical Algorithms: A Scoping Review (Michael P Cary, Anna Zink, Sijia Wei, Andrew Olson, Mengying Yan, Rashaud Senior, Sophia Bessias, Kais Gadhomi, Genevieve Jean-Pierre, Demy Wang, Leila S. Ledbetter, Nicoleta J Economou-Zavlanos, Ziad Obermeyer, and Michael J Pencina) • Promoting Equity In Clinical Decision Making: Dismantling Race-Based Medicine (Tina Hernandez-Boussard, Shazia Mehmood Siddique, Arlene S Bierman, Maia Hightower, and Helen Burstin) • Measuring The Enduring Imprint Of Structural Racism On American Neighborhoods (Zachary Dyer, Matthew J Alcusky, Sandro Galea, and A Ash) • A Formal Framework For Incorporating Equity Into Health Care Quality Measurement (Denis Agniel, Irineo Cabrerros, Cheryl L Damberg, Marc N Elliott, and Rhianna Rogers) • Voices, Images, And Experiences Of Community Health Workers: Advancing Antiracist Policy And Practice (Chidinma Ibe, Anika Hines, Nico Dominguez Carrero, Shannon Fuller, A Trainor, T Scott, D Hickman, and L A Cooper) • How Hospitals Are Addressing The Effects Of Racism: A Mixed-Methods Study Of Hospital Equity Officers (Joel S Weissman, Rachel R Adler, Joseph Betancourt, Aswita Tan-McGrory, Joy A Lewis, Catherine M DesRoches, Alysa Pomer, Elaine Singh, Andrea Liebig, Saba Ilkhani, and Saathvika Diviti) • How Funding Policy Maintains Structural Inequity Within Indigenous Community-Based Organizations (Arielle R Deutsch, Leah Frerichs, Zeynep Hasgul, Foster Murphey, Addie K Coleman, Annie Y Bachand, Arlana Bettelyoun, Paul Forney, Gene Tyon, and Mohammad S Jalali) • Low-Income Asian Americans: High Levels Of Food Insecurity And Low Participation In The CalFresh Nutrition Program (Milkie Vu, Duy Trinh, Namratha R Kandula, Nhat-Ha Tran Pham, J Makelarski, and H K Seligman) • Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Buprenorphine Receipt Among Medicare Beneficiaries, 2015–19 (Jennifer Miles, Peter Treitler, James Lloyd, Hillary Samples, Anais Mahone, Richard Hermida, Sumedha Gupta, Alexandra Duncan, Vanessa Baaklini, Kosali I Simon, and Stephen Crystal) • Medicaid Expansion Lowered Uninsurance Rates Among Nonelderly Adults In The Most Heavily Redlined Areas (Jason Semprini, Abdinasir K Ali, and Gabriel A Benavidez) • Advancing Research To Address The Health Impacts Of Structural Racism In US Immigration Prisons (Chanelle Diaz, J Nwadiuko, A Saadi, and C Patler) • A Black Woman’s Pandemic Birth Experience (Alexis Grant-Panting)
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BMJ *Quality & Safety* online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	<p>BMJ <i>Quality & Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editorial: How safe is the diagnostic process in healthcare? (Perla J Marang-van de Mheen, Eric J Thomas, Mark L Graber)• Quality of care for secondary cardiovascular disease prevention in 2009–2017: population-wide cohort study of antiplatelet therapy use in Scotland (Inna Thalmann, David Preiss, Iryna Schlackow, Alastair Gray, Borislava Mihaylova)

International Journal for Quality in Health Care online first articles

URL	https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles
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">• Measuring quality of care for Universal Health Coverage in the Western Pacific (Arianna Maeve Loreche et al)

Online resources

Clinical Communiqué

<https://www.thecommuniques.com/post/clinical-communic%C3%A9-volume-10-issue-3-september-2023>

Volume 10, Issue 3, September 2023

This issue of *Clinical Communiqué* examines two cases ‘where the patient’s families told the coroners that they had not been listened to by the nurses and doctors caring for their loved ones. A failure to hear the concerns of those that should be at the centre of every health care interaction is a missed opportunity to prevent harm.’

[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 NG235 **Intrapartum care** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng235>
- NICE Guideline NG12 **Suspected cancer: recognition and referral** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng12>
- NICE Guideline NG 127 **Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng127>
- NICE Guideline NG98 **Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng98>
- Clinical Guideline CG122 **Ovarian cancer: recognition and initial management** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg122>
- Clinical Guideline CG148 **Urinary incontinence in neurological disease: assessment and management** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg148>

[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:

- Early, intense therapy for **language problems after a stroke** is linked to the greatest benefits
- Removing tonsils is effective and cost-effective for adults with frequent **tonsillitis**
- Organs from people who died of a brain tumour may be safe to **transplant**
- Testing for both HPV and p16 can give more precise prognoses in **oropharyngeal (throat) cancer**
- **People who have self-harmed** need better access to aftercare
- Surgical removal of **fibroids** has better long-term outcomes than blocking blood vessels
- Weight regain does not eliminate the long-term benefits of **weight management programmes**
- NEWS2: patient score can predict worsening condition in **care home residents**
- **Nail bed repair surgery**: discarding the fingernail is as good as replacing it.

The NIHR has also produced a new Collection:

Multiple long-term conditions (multimorbidity) and inequality - addressing the challenge: insights from research

This Collection explores the intersection of two pressing and interconnected public health challenges: inequalities in health, and the rising number of people living with multiple conditions. It describes how disadvantage magnifies the impact of multiple conditions, what drives the variation between different groups of people, the implications for health, and how services can help.

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>1 Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>2 Put on gown</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>3 Put on surgical mask</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>4 Put on protective eyewear</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>5 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>1 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>2 Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>3 Remove and dispose of gown</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>4 Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>5 Remove protective eyewear</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>6 Perform hand hygiene</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>7 Remove and dispose of mask</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>8 Leave the room/care zone</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>9 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



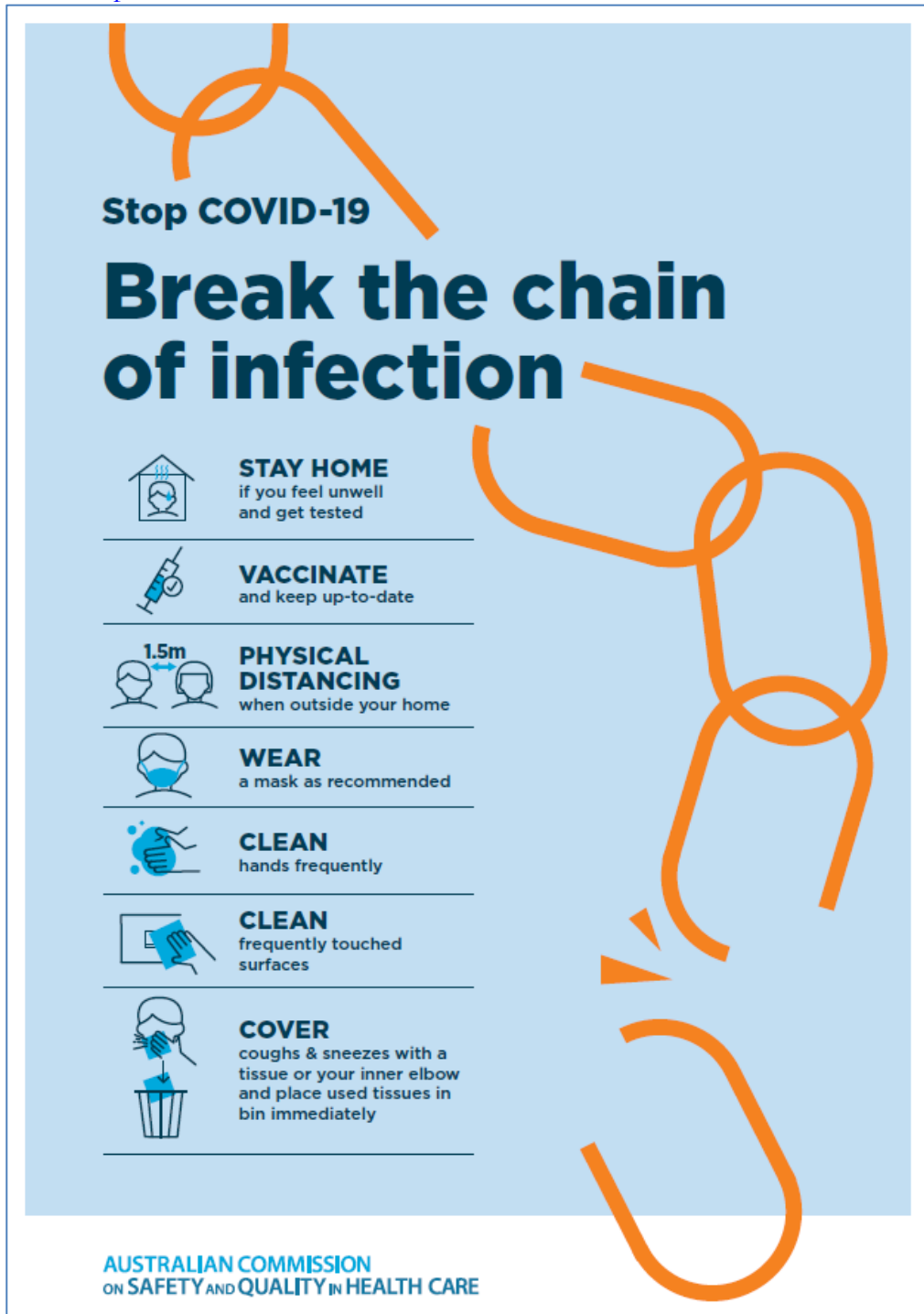
Remove and dispose of particulate respirator (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 9



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:

- ***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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