



On the Radar

Issue 639

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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

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Reports

Rethinking Health System Performance Assessment: A Renewed Framework

OECD

Paris: OECD Publishing; 2024.

DOI	https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1787/107182c8-en
Notes	<p>The OECD has revised or renewed their framework for assessing health system performance. According to the OECD, ‘t incorporates new performance dimensions, notably people-centredness, resilience, and environmental sustainability, and places increased emphasis on addressing inequalities, including those related to gender. This framework expands on existing OECD efforts in these domains and integrates the most recent advancements in health system performance assessment.’</p>

Journal articles

Effect of exercise for depression: systematic review and network meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials
 Noetel M, Sanders T, Gallardo-Gómez D, Taylor P, del Pozo Cruz B, van den Hoek D, et al
 BMJ. 2024;384:e075847.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2023-075847
Notes	Paper reporting on a systematic review and network meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials that sought to ‘identify the optimal dose and modality of exercise for treating major depressive disorder’. Based on 218 studies, the authors conclude ‘Exercise is an effective treatment for depression, with walking or jogging, yoga, and strength training more effective than other exercises, particularly when intense. Yoga and strength training were well tolerated compared with other treatments. Exercise appeared equally effective for people with and without comorbidities and with different baseline levels of depression.’

Prevalence, contributing factors, and interventions to reduce medication errors in outpatient and ambulatory settings: a systematic review

Naserlallah L, Stewart D, Price M, Paudyal V
 International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy. 2023;45(6):1359-1377.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1007/s11096-023-01626-5
Notes	This review examined the ‘peer-reviewed literature on the prevalence, nature, contributory factors, and interventions to minimize medication errors in outpatient and ambulatory settings’. Focusing on 24 studies, the authors report that while the studies reported prevalence range was wide, ‘Medication errors (particularly prescribing errors and dosing errors) in outpatient settings are prevalent’.

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

Australian Prescriber

Volume 47, Issue 1, February 2024

URL	https://australianprescriber.tg.org.au/
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>Australian Prescriber</i> has been published. Content in this issue of <i>Australian Prescriber</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing pre-existing diabetes prior to and during pregnancy (Leonie K Callaway, Fiona Britten) • Managing hypercholesterolaemia (Adam J Nelson, Stephen J Nicholls) • Therapeutic inertia (Tim Usherwood) • Diagnosis and management of eosinophilic oesophagitis (Varan Peranathan, Rebecca Burgell) • Severe liver injury following use of RAD-140, a selective androgen receptor modulator, for body building (Varan Peranathan, Jacob George) • TGA Medicines Safety Update and Australian Prescriber • Morphine oral liquid availability • TGA Medicines Safety Update summary: Use caution when prescribing baclofen off label • TGA Medicines Safety Update summary: New warnings of romosozumab (Evenity) cardiovascular risks • New drugs: Andexanet alfa for reversal of direct factor Xa inhibitor anticoagulant

URL	https://www.publish.csiro.au/py/#Latest
Notes	<p>The <i>Australian Journal of Primary Health</i> has moved to a continuous publication model. In the continuous publication model, once an article is ready for publication, it is immediately published online with final citation details (https://www.publish.csiro.au/PY/Continuouspublication).</p> <p>The latest articles from <i>Australian Journal of Primary Health</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child health nurses’ perceptions of the Family Community-based Assistance Resourcing and Education program in contemporary practice: a qualitative study (Nicole Latham, Jeanine Young, Josephine Wilson, Michelle Gray and Kendall George) • ‘Can a relative override a patient’s Advance Care Directive?’: end-of-life legal worries of general practitioners and nurses working in aged care (Ben White, Rachel Feeney, Marcus Sellars, Penny Neller, P Yates and L Willmott) • Exploring the feasibility of a gambling harm screening model in general practice and community service settings in Fairfield: a pilot study (Andrew Reid, Nick McGhie, Thi Huyen Linh Nguyen, Uday Yadav, Patricia Cullen, Leon Booth and Amy Bestman) • What do parents think about child’s routine height and weight measures? A qualitative study (Slavica Krstic, Sarah Dennis, Faye Southcombe and Elizabeth Denney-Wilson) • Exploring organisational readiness to implement a preventive intervention in Australian general practice for overweight and obese patients: key learnings from the HeLP-GP trial (Sharon Parker, An Tran, Shoko Saito, C McNamara, E Denney-Wilson, D Nutbeam, M F Harris and on behalf of the Health e-Literacy for Prevention in General Practice (HeLP-GP) Trial Group) • An integrative review of missed nursing care and the general practice nurse (Eileen Willis, Claire Verrall, Susan McInnes and Elyce Pate) • Promoting effective interprofessional collaborative practice in the primary care setting: recommendations from Queensland physiotherapy private practitioners (Jack Seaton, Anne Jones, Catherine Johnston and Karen Francis) • Leading primary care under the weight of COVID-19: how leadership was enacted in six Australian general practices during 2020 (Kathleen Wisbey, Riki Lane, Jennifer Neil, Jenny Advocat, Karyn Alexander, Benjamin F Crabtree, William L. Miller and Grant Russell) • Healthy ageing in remote Cape York: a co-designed Integrated Allied Health Service Model (Alice Cairns, Danielle Rodda, Frances Wymarra and K Bird) • Aboriginal Health Practitioners obtaining, possessing and administering fluoride varnish: self-determination driven regulation amendment for integrated oral health care for Aboriginal children (Rahila Ummer-Christian, Dallas Widdicombe, Anil Raichur and Danielle Couch) • A systematic search and narrative review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men pelvic health care: demonstrated need for improvement (Emma M Wise, Marilyn A Morgan, Emily D Biggs, Bronte H Ellis, Marissa C Joseph, Melanie L Say, Lea T Yanitsas, Jonathan C Bullen, Brooke R Conley, Ivan B Lin, Leo Ng and Darren J Beales) • Access to general practice for preventive health care for people who experience severe mental illness in Sydney, Australia: a qualitative study (Catherine Spooner, Peri O’Shea, Karen R Fisher, Ben Harris-Roxas, Jane Taggart, Patrick Bolton and Mark F Harris)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building workforce capacity to address substance use in primary health care: preliminary results from a mixed-methods pilot program (Matthew W R Stevens, Rowena Ivers, Joanne Telenta and Robert L Ali) • Empowering our First Nations workforce: evaluation of a First Nations COVID-19 vaccination training program (Sean Cowley, Karina Baigrie, Katie Panaretto, Kelly Trudgen, Vanessa Clements, Oscar Whitehead and Rica Lacey) • Australian health professionals' perspectives on discussing sexual activity and intimacy with people who have had a heart attack: a qualitative study (Claire Moran, Kara Lilly, Anthony Leo Walsh, R Foreman and J Taylor) • Quantitative analysis on dental utilisation in culturally and linguistically diverse mothers (Kanchan Marcus, Madhan Balasubramanian, Stephanie D. Short and Woosung Sohn) • Lessons from the Netherlands for Australia: cross-country comparison of trends in antidepressant dispensing 2013–2021 and contextual factors influencing prescribing (Katharine A Wallis, Pieter J S Dikken, Piumika Sooriyaarachchi, Arthur M Bohnen and Maria Donald) • The evaluation of the Plan–Do–Study–Act cycles for a healthcare quality improvement intervention in primary care (Deborah Manandi, Qiang Tu, Nashid Hafiz, Rebecca Raeside, Julie Redfern and Karice Hyun) • 'A sense of self, empowerment and purposefulness?': professional diversification and wellbeing in Australian general practitioners (Jill Benson, Shaun Prentice, Penny Need, Michelle Pitot and Taryn Elliott) • The client and family experience of attending a nurse-led clinic for chronic wounds (Anusuya Dhar, Judith Needham, Michelle Gibb and E Coyne) • Postpartum contraception in Australia: opportunities for increasing access in the primary care setting (Rhea Singh and Jessica R Botfield) • Reducing antibiotic prescribing in general practice in Australia: a cluster randomised controlled trial of a multimodal intervention (Minyon L Avent, Lisa Hall, Mieke van Driel, Annette Dobson, Laura Deckx, Mahmoud Galal, Malene Plejdrup Hansen and Charles Gilks) • GP perspectives on a psychiatry phone line in Western Australia's Great Southern region: implications for addressing rural GP workload (Beatriz Cuesta-Briand, D Rock, L Tayba, J Hoimes, H Ngo, M Taran and M Coleman) • The impact of COVID-19 on community mental health: lessons learned from Tasmania, Australia (Melissa Savaglio, R O'Donnell and H Skouteris) • Communicating medical information with Aboriginal patients: lessons learned from GPs and GP registrars in Aboriginal primary health care (Wissam Ghamrawi, Jill Benson and Emma Kennedy) • E-prescription: views and acceptance of general practitioners and pharmacists in Greater Sydney (Phyllis Lau, Minh Thuan Tran, Ricky Yong Kim, Alsayed Hashem Alrefae, Sangwoo Ryu and Jim Chyuan The) • Identification and nutritional management of malnutrition and frailty in the community: the process used to develop an Australian and New Zealand guide (Megan Rattray and Shelley Roberts) • Capacity building for mental health services: methodology and lessons learned from the Partners in Recovery initiative (Tania Shelby-James, Megan Rattray, Garry Raymond and Richard Reed) • Barriers and facilitators to adherence to Optimal Care Pathways for diagnosis and treatment of cancer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
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	<p>(Rowena Ivers, Michelle Dickson, Kathleen Taylor, Trish Levett, Kyla Wynn, Janelle Trees, Emma Webster, G Garvey, J Cunningham, L Whop and A Diaz)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Being in a place where it matters': GPs who do and do not work in Aboriginal Health Services (Shaun Prentice, Alexandra Barrett, Jill Benson and Taryn Elliott) • The influence of care continuity and disclosure of sexual orientation in general practice on lesbian, bi+ and queer cisgender women's engagement with mental health services (Pip Buckingham, Adam Bourne, Ruth McNair, Adam O. Hill, Anthony Lyons, Marina Carman and Natalie Amos)
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URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/33/3
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> has been published. Many of the papers in this issue have been referred to in previous editions of <i>On the Radar</i> (when they were released online). Articles in this issue of <i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial: Our mission and how we hope to move the field forward: statement from the BMJ Quality & Safety senior editorial team 2023 (John Browne, Bryony Dean Franklin, Eric J Thomas, Perla J Marang-van de Mheen) • Editorial: Changing the patient safety mindset: can safety cases help? (Mark Sujjan, Ibrahim Habli) • Editorial: Using patient and carer perspectives to improve medication safety at transitions of care (Sara Garfield, Mike Etkind, Bryony Dean Franklin) • Editorial: Identifying patients with additional needs isn't enough to improve care: harnessing the benefits and avoiding the pitfalls of classification (Natalie Armstrong, Elizabeth Sutton, Sarah Chew, Carolyn Tarrant) • What can Safety Cases offer for patient safety? A multisite case study (Elisa Giulia Liberati, Graham P Martin, Guillaume Lamé, Justin Waring, Carolyn Tarrant, Janet Willars, Mary Dixon-Woods) • Talking about falls: a qualitative exploration of spoken communication of patients' fall risks in hospitals and implications for multifactorial approaches to fall prevention (Lynn McVey, Natasha Alvarado, Frances Healey, Jane Montague, Chris Todd, Hadar Zaman, Dawn Dowding, Alison Lynch, Basma Issa, Rebecca Randell) • Identifying and mapping measures of medication safety during transfer of care in a digital era: a scoping literature review (Catherine Leon, Helen Hogan, Yogini H Jani) • Systematic review of clinical debriefing tools: attributes and evidence for use (Emma Claire Phillips, Samantha Eve Smith, Victoria Tallentire, Sheena Blair) • Choosing Wisely and the climate crisis: a role for clinicians (Karen B Born, Wendy Levinson, Emma Vaux) • Is targeting healthcare's carbon footprint really the best we can do to help address the climate crisis? (Kaveh G Shojania)

URL	https://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/toc/2024/03000
Notes	<p>A new issue of the <i>Journal of Patient Safety</i> has been published. Articles in this issue of the <i>Journal of Patient Safety</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Safety in Nursing Homes From an Ecological Perspective: An Integrated Review (Deulle Min, Seungmi Park, Suhee Kim, Hye Ok Park) • Dentists’ Attitudes to the Preprocedural Safety Checklist “Time-Out” in Saudi Arabia (Davide Rocchetta, Syed Sirajul Hassan, Jenny Gray) • Nomogram for Predicting the Risk of Complications in Hospitalized Children With Peripheral Intravenous Catheters (Xin Zhang, Shuhui Xu, Jing Sun, Ying Yang, Meihua Piao, Shih-Yu Lee) • Examining the Relationship Between Nurses’ Fear of COVID-19 and Nursing Care Behavior (Burcu Ceylan, Gul Gunes Aktan, Simge C Palaz) • The Influence of Preoperative Waiting Time on Anxiety and Pain Levels in Outpatient Surgery for Breast Diseases (Bei Wu, Han-Jin Wang, Xiu-Pin Yang, Zhen-Hua Zhong) • Why Simulation Matters: A Systematic Review on Medical Errors Occurring During Simulated Health Care (Leshya Bokka, F Ciuffo, T C Clapper) • Enhancing Pressure Injury Surveillance Using Natural Language Processing (Carly E Milliren, Al Ozonoff, Kerri A Fournier, Jennifer Welcher, Assaf Landschaft, Amir A Kimia) • Systematic Review of Morbidity and Mortality Meeting Standardization: Does It Lead to Improved Professional Development, System Improvements, Clinician Engagement, and Enhanced Patient Safety Culture? (Emily J Steel, Monika Janda, Shayaun Jamali, Michelle Winning, Bryan Dai, Kylie Sellwood) • The Association of Organizational, Environmental, and Staffing Characteristics of Residential Care Facilities and the Risk Rating of Statutory Notifications: A Cross-Sectional Study in Ireland (Paul Dunbar, Niall McGrane, Laura M Keyes) • Implementation of Hospital Mortality Reviews: A Systematic Review (Moritz Sebastian Schönfeld, Martin Härter, Ann Sophie Schröder, Katrin Kokartis, Hans-Jürgen Bartz, Levente Kriston) • A Novel Role to Manage Capacity and Flow in Hospital Medicine (Gabrielle Kis Bromberg, Marjory A Bravard, Kimiyoshi J Kobayashi, Amber Moore)

URL	https://journals.lww.com/pqs/toc/2024/01000
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>Pediatric Quality & Safety</i> has been published. This issue of <i>Pediatric Quality & Safety</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antimicrobial Stewardship and Improved Antibiotic Utilization in the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (Margot M Hillyer, Preeti Jaggi, Nikhil K Chanani, Alfred J Fernandez, Hania Zaki, Michael P Fundora) • Impact of a Clinical Decision Support Alert on Informed Consent Documentation in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (Emily Sangillo, Neena Jube-Desai, Dina El-Metwally, Colleen Hughes Driscoll) • Impact of a Bronchiolitis Clinical Pathway on Management Decisions by Preferred Language (Robert H Rosen, Michael C Monuteaux, Anne M Stack, Kenneth A Michelson, Andrew M Fine)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of an Anterior Mediastinal Mass Pathway to Improve Time to Biopsy and Multidisciplinary Communication (Rachel E Gahagen, William C Gaylord, M D D Jackson, A E McCallister, R Lutfi, J A Belsky) • Improving Anticoagulation Care for Pediatric Oncology Patients: A Quality Improvement Initiative (Vilmarie Rodriguez, Brockton S Mitchell, Joseph Stanek, K Vasko, J Giver, K Monda, J Canini, A A Dunn, R Kumar) • A Quality Improvement Initiative to Transform Seasonal Immunization Processes Using Learning from the Coronavirus 2019 Pandemic (Eric D Robinette, Pamela M Nelly, Laurie J Engler, Michael T Bigham)
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BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	<p><i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of knowledge and reasoning processes as predictors of resident physicians’ susceptibility to anchoring bias in diagnostic reasoning: a randomised controlled experiment (Sílvia Mamede, Adrienne Zandbergen, Marco Antonio de Carvalho-Filho, Goda Choi, Marco Goeijenbier, Joost van Ginkel, Laura Zwaan, Fred Paas, Henk G Schmidt)

Online resources

Australian Concussion Guidelines for Youth and Community Sport

<https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/>

https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1133994/37382_Concussion-Guidelines-for-community-and-youth-FA-acc.pdf

A collaboration between the Australian Institute of Sport, Australasian College of Sport & Exercise Physicians, Sports Medicine Australia and Australian Physiotherapy Association.

“In in doubt, sit them out.”

[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 NG33 ***Tuberculosis*** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng33>

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>

















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

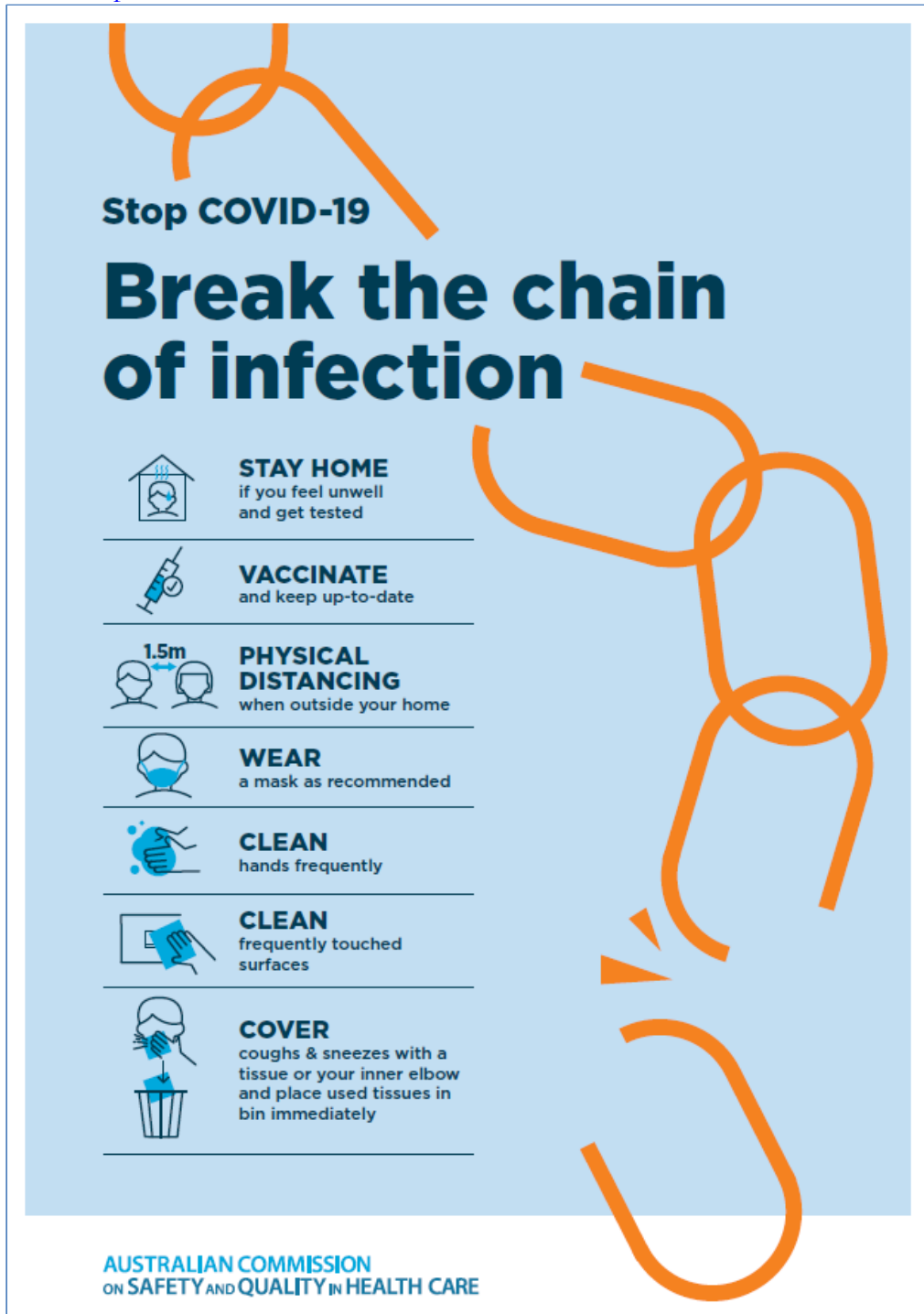
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

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.

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