# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



### On the Radar

Issue 641 11 March 2024

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#### On the Radar

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### Reports

 $Transforming\ for\ value-based\ health\ care:\ Lessons\ from\ NHS\ Wales$ 

Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Perspectives Brief no: 30

Hoban E, Lewis S, Woolcock K, Haddock R

Canberra: Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association; 2024. p. 42.

115011a. 11astranan 11eartheare and 11osphalis 11ssociation, 2021. p. 12.	
URL	https://ahha.asn.au/sites/default/files/docs/policy-issue/deeble_perspectives_brief_30. transforming_for_valued-based_health_care.pdf
Notes	This Perspectives Brief recently published by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Deeble Institute uses examples from NHS Wales to examine value-based health care (VBHC), including the how VBHC has evolved and lessons that can be learned from to inform how it may be applied in Australia.

Translating policy into practice by engaging older persons and their carers as co-researchers Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Perspectives Brief no: 29 Beks H, Clayden S, West E, King O, Alston L, Williams S, et al

Canberra: Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association; 2024. p. 29.

URL	https://ahha.asn.au/sites/default/files/docs/policy- issue/perspectives brief no 29. engaging older persons as co-researchers.pdf
Notes	This Perspectives Brief from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Deeble Institute examines approaches to observations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. The authors of this Perspectives Brief note that the Royal Commission 'identified the need to improve the delivery of health care to meet the needs of older persons and their carers' and that the 'greater involvement of older persons and their carers in research to develop solutions was recommended.' This brief examines mechanisms for engaging older persons and their carers as coresearchers in participatory health research.

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

### Journal articles

Supported decision-making interventions in mental healthcare: A systematic review of current evidence and implementation barriers

Francis CJ, Johnson A, Wilson RL

Health Expectations. 2024;27(2):e14001.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.14001
	Paper from a group of Australian researchers reporting on a systematic review of the
	literature on shared-decision making in mental health. Based on 140 articles, the
	authors report that 'Overarching barriers to shared and supported decision-
	making in mental health treatment planning were (1) Organisational (resource
	limitations, culture barriers, risk management priorities and structure); (2) Process
	(lack of knowledge, time constraints, health-related concerns, problems completing
Notes	and using plans); and (3) Relationship barriers (fear and distrust for both service
	users and clinicians).' The authors observe that 'Central to and underlying all three of
	these barriers were the common and intertwined threads of fear and distrust'.
	Furthermore, 'minimising these barriers and providing the right organisational, process
	and relationship assistance are key to successful shared and supported decision-making
	in mental health treatment planning. With the need to develop trust at the heart of the
	actions to be taken.'

For information on the Commission's work on mental health, see <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/mental-health">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/mental-health</a>

For information on the Commission's work on shared decisions making, see <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers/shared-decision-making">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers/shared-decision-making</a>

Care Fragmentation, Care Continuity, and Care Coordination—How They Differ and Why It Matters Kern LM, Bynum JPW, Pincus HA

JAMA Internal Medicine. 2024;184(3):236-237.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.7628
	Viewpoint piece in JAMA Internal Medicine that examines fragmentation, continuity,
	and coordination of care. The authors define these:
	'Care fragmentation is care that is diffusely spread across many physicians, such that
	no single physician accounts for a substantial proportion of visits.'
	'Care continuity is the use of the same ambulatory physician repeatedly over time, such
	that the usual physician (who can be a primary care physician or specialist) accounts
	for a substantial proportion of visits.'
	It's observed that 'fragmentation and continuity are measures of utilization. They can
	both be measured with numerical indices'
Notes	By contrast, care coordination cannot simply be assessed by a quantitative measure of
11000	ambulatory utilization. It involves a more qualitative assessment of the extent to which
	physicians are collectively operating in a teamlike manner to develop and implement
	an overall care plan to meet the patient's goals'
	In their conclusion the authors suggest 'Even though continuity and fragmentation are
	the mathematical inverses of each other, improving continuity (ie, increasing the
	number of visits with one physician) would not necessarily decrease the total number
	of physicians involved in a person's care, nor would it necessarily improve
	coordination among all of those physicians.' However, the issue may be more that
	Patients are experiencing avoidable harm from fragmented care, and they deserve
	better.'

Complication Rates of Central Venous Catheters: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Teja B, Bosch NA, Diep C, Pereira TV, Mauricio P, Sklar MC, et al JAMA Internal Medicine. 2024.

Enhancing Quality and Safety in Critical Care—Challenges and Strategies for Central Venous Catheters Saade EA, Lytle FT, Pronovost PJ JAMA Internal Medicine. 2024.

DOI	Teja et al <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.8232">https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.8232</a>
	Saade et al <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.8243">https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.8243</a>
Notes	Teja et al report on a systematic review and meta-analysis that sought to examine the rates of complications from central venous catheter (CVC) use. Based on 130 studies published in the period 2015 to 2023, the authors found 'rates of complications varied substantially across studies, but on average, the rate of serious complications (arterial cannulation, pneumothorax, infection, or deep vein thrombosis) from a CVC placed for 3 days was estimated to be 30 events per 1000 catheters placed (3%). Use of ultrasonography was associated with lower rates of immediate insertion-related complications.'  In an invited commentary, Saade et al canvas a number of issues around CVCs including how the reliance on CVCs is being re-evaluated, practices to lower the risks of CVC use, and the use of process measures as 'a proactive approach to infection control by promoting the standardization of practices known to reduce infection risk'.

What's going well: a qualitative analysis of positive patient and family feedback in the context of the diagnostic process. Liu SK, Bourgeois F, Dong J, Harcourt K, Lowe E, Salmi L, et al Diagnosis 2024;11(1):63-72.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1515/dx-2023-0075
Notes	Paper reporting on a study that sought to understand patient perspectives 'on what constitutes a "good" diagnostic process (DxP).' Using surveys conducted with 'Patients/families living with chronic conditions with visits in three urban pediatric subspecialty clinics (site 1) and one rural adult primary care clinic (site 2)' with '7,075 surveys were completed before 18,129 visits (39 %) at site 1, and 460 surveys were completed prior to 706 (65 %) visits at site 2.' 1,578 of these 'volunteered positive feedback' with analysis of the longer responses leading the authors to the conclusion that 'Patients/families valued relationships with clinicians above all else in the DxP, emphasizing the importance of supporting clinicians to nurture effective relationships and relationship-centered care in the DxP.'

Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management Volume 29, Number 1, February 2024

URL	https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/cric/29/1
	A new issue of the Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management has been published.  Articles in this issue of the Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management include:
	• Editorial: <b>Making a career in patient safety</b> : How I got hooked (Albert W Wu, Charles Vincent, Shin Ushiro, Anupam Sibal, Pa-Chun Wang, and Ezequiel Garcia Elorrio)
	• Lucy Letby inquiry could be a missed opportunity if it does not look at the wider issue (Paul Whiteing)
Notes	• Challenges of integrating patient safety into nursing curricula: An integrative literature review (D M Ashoka Priyadarshani Dissanayake, Kumudini Paba Dharmasena, and Sudath Shirley Pathmasiri Warnakulasuriya)
Notes	<ul> <li>How deep is a problem of second victims for medical staff? A pilot study in Croatia (Anatoliy G Goncharuk, Bojana Knežević, Sandra C Buttigieg, and José Joaquín Mira)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Patient safety near misses – Still missing opportunities to learn (Nick Woodier, Charlotte Burnett, Paul Sampson, and Iain Moppett)</li> </ul>
	Patient safety competence of nursing students and affecting factors (Ayşegül Yılmaz and Özlem Erdem)
	A five-step approach to <b>safer skin surgery</b> (Hayley Smith, Raman Bhutani, Angana Mitra, Victoria Goulden, Walayat Hussain, Rajib Rahim, Claire Machin, and Graeme I Stables)

# Healthcare Papers Volume 21, Number 4, 2024

	https://www.longwoods.com/publications/healthcarepapers/27267/1/vol21-no4-
UKL	2024-defining-essential-digital-health-for-the-underserved-
URL	https://www.longwoods.com/publications/healthcarepapers/27267/1/vol21-no4-2024-defining-essential-digital-health-for-the-underserved-  A new issue of Healthcare Papers has been published with a focus on Defining "Essential Digital Health for the Underserved". Articles in this issue of Healthcare Papers include:  • Defining "Essential Digital Health for the Underserved" (Kendall Ho, Owen Adams, Ambreen Sayani and Gurleen Cheema)  • Consolidated Principles for Equitable and Inclusive Digital Health and Virtual Care Co-Design (Paula Voorheis, Jennifer Major, Jennifer Stinson, Ron Beleno, Colleen Ferris and Carolyn Steele Gray)  • Relational Work Is the Work: Virtual Healthcare Transformation for Rural, Remote and First Nations Communities in British Columbia (John Mah, John Pawlovich, Terri Aldred, Scott Graham, Ray Markham, Kim Williams, Bob Woollard, John Grogan, Dee Taylor, Nelly D Oelke, Alison James, Melissa Stewart, Sonya Cressman, Arianna Hogan and Daniel Harper)  • Can Answers to the Health Workforce Crisis Be Found in Equity-Informed Digital Health? (Helen Novak Lauscher, Chad Kim Sing, Chantz Strong, Anita Palepu, Jason Jaswal, Dietrich Fürstenburg, Nelly D Oelke, P K Pearce, K Ho)  • Human Factor Health Data Interoperability (Ewan Affleck, Eric Sutherland, Cliff Lindeman, Richard Golonka, Teri Price, Tim Murphy, Tyler Williamson, Ann Chapman, Anita Layton and Cassie Fraser)  • Enabling Connected Care with a Person-Centred Data Foundation (Anne Forsyth, Ann Chapman, Shannon Malovec, Michael Tatto, Mauree Aki Matsusaka, Jennifer Cordeiro and Meagan Mark)
	<ul> <li>Williamson, Ann Chapman, Anita Layton and Cassie Fraser)</li> <li>Enabling Connected Care with a Person-Centred Data Foundation (Anne Forsyth, Ann Chapman, Shannon Malovec, Michael Tatto, Mauree Aki Matsusaka, Jennifer Cordeiro and Meagan Mark)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Nadigel, Bahar Kasaai, Sonya Cressman, Jennifer Cordeiro and Kendall Ho)</li> <li>Learning Health Systems: A Paradigm Shift in What We Can Do about Digital Health Inequities (Sonya Cressman, Ibukun-Oluwa Omolade Abejirinde, Joan Assali, Mavis B Dennis, Alies Maybee, Michele Strom, Kendall Ho, Clare L. Ardern, A Sayani, R Markham and O Bhattacharyya)</li> <li>From Today to Tomorrow: Leveraging Digital Health to Move toward Health for All (Kendall Ho, Onil Bhattacharyya and Owen Adams)</li> </ul>

Journal for Healthcare Quality
Volume 46, Number 2, March/April 2024

URL	https://journals.lww.com/jhqonline/toc/2024/04000
	A new issue of the Journal for Healthcare Quality has been published. Articles in this issue
	of the Journal for Healthcare Quality include:
	Improving Interdisciplinary Communication on an Academic Hospitalist
	Service: A Quality Improvement Project (Stephen Biederman, Nargiza Sadr,
Notes	Rehan Qayyum)
	Team-Based Care Model Improves Timely Access to Care and Patient
	Satisfaction in General Cardiology (Christa M Sharpe, Linda Eastham)
	Quality Improvement Interventions to Enhance Vaccine Uptake in Cancer
	Patients: A Systematic Review (Basil Kazi, Zain Talukdar, Janice Schrieffer)

<ul> <li>Improving Quality Care and Patient Safety With Implementation of an Oversew Stitch in Lumbar Drains (Erik C Brown, Samantha Fay, Ahmed M Raslan, Christina M Sayama)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Organizational Learning in the Morbidity and Mortality Conference (Michelle Batthish, Ayelet Kuper, Claire Fine, Ronald M Laxer, G Ross Baker)</li> </ul>
• Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives From Community Health Center Clinicians (Margaret Meador, Neha Sachdev, Eboni Anderson, Debosree Roy, R Curtis Bay, Lauren H Becker, Joy H Lewis)
<ul> <li>Redesigning the First Prenatal Visit: A Quality Improvement Initiative (Diane Christopher, Joellen Fresia, Jennifer Alexander, Kristin Krenz, Heather Aldrich, Karen Hampanda)</li> </ul>

Journal of Health Services Research & Policy Volume 29, Number 2, April 2024

o <u>lume 29, N</u>	lumber 2, April 2024
URL	https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/hsrb/29/2
Notes	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:
	• Expected wait times for access to a disease-modifying Alzheimer's treatment in England: A modelling study (Soeren Mattke, Yu Tang, and Mark Hanson)
	<ul> <li>Demand and willingness to pay for human papilloma virus vaccine for their daughters among mothers in Haryana, India: A contingent valuation study (Shomik Ray, Rubina Mulchandani, and Pankaj Patel)</li> </ul>
	• Job preferences of Chinese primary health care workers: A discrete choice experiment (Yingxi Lin, Jinfeng Xie, Dan Wu, Yingyu Wang, Yiyuan Cai, Qing Zhao, Lanping Zhang, Jiaqi Li, Wenjun He, and Dong (Roman) Xu)
	High health care use prior to elective surgery for osteoarthritis is associated with poor postoperative outcomes: A Canadian population-based cohort study (Mayilee Canizares, J Denise Power, Anthony V Perruccio, Michael Paterson, Nizar N Mahomed, and Y Raja Rampersaud)
	• Experiences of online group support for engaging and supporting participants in the National Health Service <b>Digital Diabetes Prevention Programme</b> : A qualitative interview study (Wang Chun Cheung, Lisa M Miles, Rhiannon E Hawkes, and David P French)
	• What is the best way to <b>evaluate social prescribing</b> ? A qualitative feasibility assessment for a national impact evaluation study in England (Abimbola Ayorinde, Amy Grove, Iman Ghosh, Jenny Harlock, Edward Meehan, Natalie Tyldesley-Marshall, Adam Briggs, Aileen Clarke, and Lena Al-Khudairy)
	<ul> <li>Assessing progress in managing and improving quality in nascent integrated care systems in England (Mirza Lalani, Priya Sugavanam, James Caiels, Helen Crocker, Sarah Gunn, Harriet Hay, Helen Hogan, Bethan Page, Michele Peters, and Ray Fitzpatrick)</li> </ul>
	• Innovative domestic financing mechanisms for health in Africa: An evidence review (Nouria Brikci)

Health Affairs Volume 43, Number 3, March 2024

URL	https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/43/3
Notes	A new issue of <i>Health Affairs</i> has been published with the themes 'Nursing Homes, Medicaid, Physicians & Health. Articles in this issue of <i>Health Affairs</i> include:

- New CMS Nursing Home Ownership Data: Major Gaps And Discrepancies (Amanda C Chen, Robert J Skinner, Robert Tyler Braun, R Tamara Konetzka, David G Stevenson, and David C Grabowski)
- Nursing Homes Increasingly Rely On Staffing Agencies For Direct Care Nursing (John R Bowblis, Christopher S Brunt, Huiwen Xu, Robert Applebaum, and David C Grabowski)
- COVID-19 Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Provision Yielded Gains In Postpartum Continuity Of Coverage (Sarah H Gordon, Lucy Chen, Nancy DeLew, and Benjamin D Sommers)
- Effects Of Medicaid Expansions On Coverage, Prenatal Care, And Health Among American Indian/Alaska Native Women (Kate W Strully, Pinka Chatterji, Han Liu, Soojin Han, and Lawrence Schell)
- Private Equity–Acquired Physician Practices And Market Penetration Increased Substantially, 2012–21 (Ola Abdelhadi, Brent D Fulton, Laura Alexander, and Richard M Scheffler)
- Higher Rates Of Emergency Surgery, Serious Complications, And Readmissions In Primary Care Shortage Areas, 2015–19 (Sara L Schaefer, Shukri H A Dualeh, Nicholas Kunnath, John W Scott, and A M Ibrahim)
- Primary Care Physicians In Medicare Advantage Were Less Costly, Provided Similar Quality Versus Regional Average (Eran Politzer, Timothy S Anderson, John Z Ayanian, Vilsa Curto, John A Graves, Laura A Hatfield, Jeffrey Souza, Alan M Zaslavsky, and Bruce E Landon)
- Gaps In Quality Of Care Not Consistent Between Traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage For Racial And Ethnic Groups (Jeah Jung, Hansoo Ko, Roger Feldman, Caroline S Carlin, and Ge Song)
- Medicare Part D Plans Greatly Increased Utilization Restrictions On Prescription Drugs, 2011–20 (Geoffrey Joyce, Barbara Blaylock, Jiafan Chen, and Karen Van Nuys)
- Georgia's **Reinsurance Waiver** Associated With Decreased Premium Affordability And Enrollment (D M Anderson, E Golberstein, and C Drake)
- Meals On Wheels Clients: Measurable Differences In The Likelihood Of Aging In Place Or Being Hospitalized (Sarah E Walsh, France Marie Weaver, and Jennifer Chubinski)
- Trauma Center Hospitals Charged Higher Prices For Some Nontrauma Care Than Non–Trauma Center Hospitals, 2012–18 (Daniel P Kessler, Richard Sweeney, and Glenn A Melnick)
- Hospital Facility Prices Declined As A Result Of Oregon's Hospital Payment Cap (Roslyn C Murray, Zach Y Brown, Sarah Miller, Edward C Norton, and Andrew M Ryan)
- County-Level Mandates Were Generally Effective At Slowing **COVID-19 Transmission** (Courtney E Baird, D Lake, O A Panagiotou, and P Gozalo)
- PrEP Discontinuation In A US National Cohort Of Sexual And Gender Minority Populations, 2017–22 (Yan Guo, Drew A Westmoreland, Alexa D'Angelo, Chloe Mirzayi, Michelle Dearolf, Pedro B Carneiro, Meredith Ray, David W Pantalone, Adam W Carrico, Viraj V Patel, Sarit A Golub, Sabina Hirshfield, Donald Hoover, Denis Nash, and Christian Grov)
- Losing Our Way In A Rare Disease Diagnostic Odyssey (Kara A. Ayik)

BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
	BMJ Quality & Safety has published a number of 'online first' articles, including:
	• Editorial: Effective use of interdisciplinary approaches in healthcare
	quality: drawing on operations and visual management (Nicola Bateman)
Notes	• Editorial: Can virtual reality simulations improve macrocognition? (Michelle
	Aebersold, Laura Gonzalez)
	• Editorial: Pragmatic trials are needed to assess the effectiveness of <b>enhanced</b>
	recovery after surgery protocols on patient safety (Antoine Duclos)

### 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 NG239 *Vitamin B12 deficiency* in over 16s: diagnosis and management <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng239">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng239</a>

### **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 <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19</a>

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).
   <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/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</a>
- 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



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



Perform hand hygiene



Put on gown



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



Put on protective eyewear



Perform hand hygiene



Put on gloves

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



Remove and dispose of gloves



Perform hand hygiene



Remove and dispose of gown



Leave the room/care zone



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



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



Perform hand hygiene (in an antercom/outside the room/care zone)



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



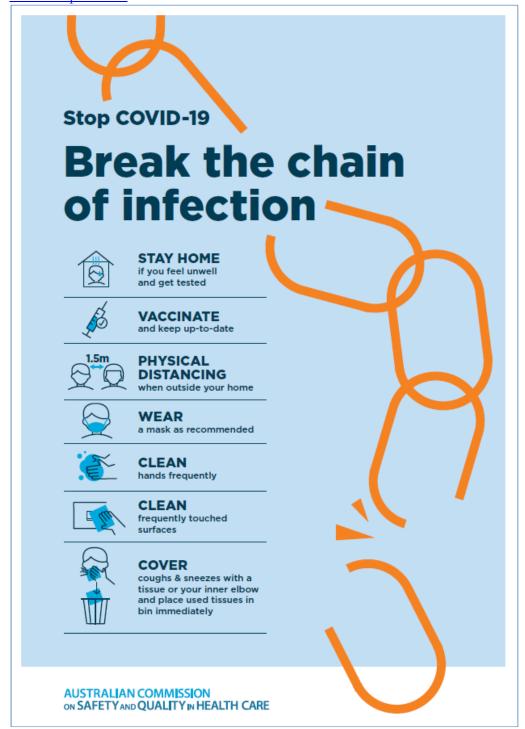
Perform hand hygiene

### KEEP DOOR CLOSED AT ALL TIMES

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

The content of this poster was informed by resources developed by the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission and the Australian Government Infection Control Expert Group. Photos reproduced with permission of the NSW Clinical Box elence Commission.

- Environmental Cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control www.safetyandquality.gov.au/environmental-cleaning
- COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management Guidance
  <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/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</a>
- Safe care for people with cognitive impairment during COVID-19
  <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-and-covid-19">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-and-covid-19</a>
- Stop COVID-19: Break the chain of infection poster <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-infection-poster-a3">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-infection-poster-a3</a>



COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers
 <a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-face-masks-information-consumers">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-face-masks-information-consumers</a>

## AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



### 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.

### Disclaimer

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