

FAST FACTS

for CQR operators, clinicians, health services and other stakeholders

Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024

National Clinical Quality Registries (CQRs) make an important contribution to healthcare in Australia by giving clinicians, health service organisations and governments the information they need to keep making healthcare safer and better for everyone.

CQRs systematically collect and analyse data from across the health system and provide timely feedback on the safety and quality of care. They aim to report on best-practice and identify issues of concern as they emerge.

To be effective, CQRs should have sound arrangements in place for governance, data management and reporting, and they should be able to operate within an increasingly digitally enabled health system.

Developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission), the *Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024* (the Framework) aims to help new, developing and well-established CQRs succeed as valuable contributors to a learning health system.



View or download the [Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024](#) here.

What's new about the Framework?

- The *Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024* (the Framework) is an update to the *Framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries 2014*.
- It is a principles-based document that aims to help CQRs deliver meaningful feedback to clinicians, health service organisations and governments. It contains *Strategic Principles*, *Operating Principles* and a new *Quality Standard for CQRs*.
- The update emphasises the role CQRs play in driving improvements in the safety and quality of healthcare. It recognises the challenges and opportunities for CQRs in a digitally enabled health system.
- In producing the Framework, the Commission worked with an Advisory Group including CQR experts and representatives from all states and territories. The development of the Framework was informed by a national process of stakeholder consultation. The Framework underpins the [National Strategy for Clinical Quality Registries and Virtual Registries 2020–2030](#).



Get to know the Framework

What is the Framework?

The Framework sets out the principles under which all CQRs should be operating, and provides clear and practical guidance on how those principles can be implemented, over time. It also helps to ensure that CQRs have processes in place to minimise the risks associated with data collection and management.

What does the Framework include?

The Framework includes *Strategic Principles* and *Operating Principles* that help ensure CQRs are aligned with national strategic approaches to CQR development. It also includes a *Quality Standard for CQRs* that aims to mitigate risks related to data collection and management, and promote the reporting processes that drive improvements in safety and quality. The *Quality Standard* aligns with the *National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards*.

Who should use the Framework?

The Framework applies to national CQRs operating in areas that represent the greatest burden of disease, the greatest cost to the health system, or the greatest variation in care and outcomes. Application of the Framework is voluntary however the Quality Standard provides a nationally consistent quality framework which can be used by all CQRs committed to improving safety and quality in health care.

The Framework is intended for use by CQR operators including registry data custodians; Commonwealth, state and territory health departments; and health service organisation administrators and clinicians. It is also relevant for medical colleges, governments, funders, the community, and anyone with an interest in health outcomes, variations in clinical practice, and health-system improvement.

How do CQRs contribute to a learning health system?

CQRs provide timely feedback on clinical outcomes, enabling clinicians and health service

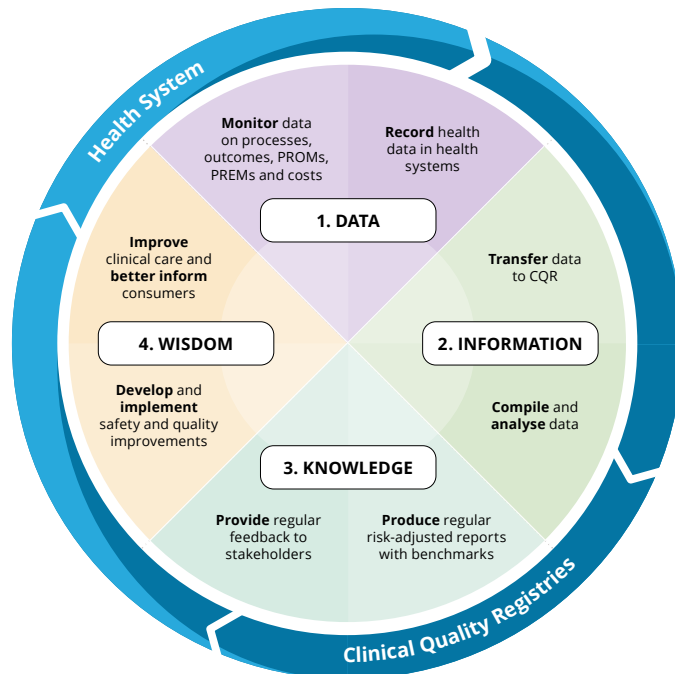
organisations to address emerging issues, and adopt best-practice approaches to patient care.

The CQR feedback loop co-exists with other components of the health system, such as healthcare policy, regulations and guidelines, the Commission's Clinical Care Standards and work on healthcare variation, and results from research and clinical trials. The synergies between these different components collectively drive a learning health system.

Are there any resources to support the implementation of the Framework?

Additional documents to support CQRs as they implement the Framework can be found on the Commission's website, including:

- [Attachment 1: Australian CQR logical design and infrastructure guideline 2024](#)
- [Attachment 2: Australian CQR security compliance guideline 2024.](#)



Above: CQR feedback loop for ongoing improvements in the safety and quality of healthcare.