

Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024

National Clinical Quality Registries (CQRs) collect and analyse data from across the health system and provide timely feedback about clinical outcomes to clinicians, health service organisations and governments to help drive improvements in health care.

What is the Framework?

The *Australian Framework for National Clinical Quality Registries 2024* (the Framework) is a principles-based document that provides best practice on establishing and operating CQRs in Australia. It provides practical guidance to support new, developing and well-established CQRs to work towards achieving best practice in governance, logical design, security and privacy compliance, reporting and outlier measurement.

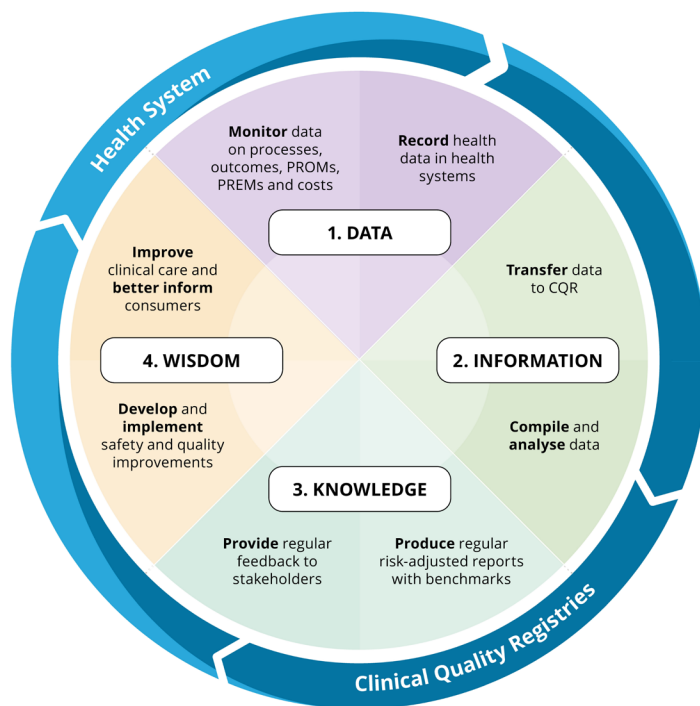
It is part of a national body of work to help CQRs establish and maintain systems and processes to achieve their core purpose of contributing to a learning health system that will drive better health care and patient outcomes.

The Framework is an update to the *Framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries 2014* and underpins the [National Strategy for Clinical Quality Registries and Virtual Registries 2020–2030](#). It was produced by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, with input from an Advisory Group including CQR experts and representatives from all state and territories, and informed by a national process of stakeholder consultation.

What's new in the Framework?

- Practical guidance on CQR governance
- Quality Standard for CQRs
- Self-assessment checklists.

Below: CQR feedback loop for improvements in the safety and quality of health care.



Find out more

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

Who should use the Framework?

The Framework is intended for use by CQR operators as they make assessments about what their registry is doing well, and plan for improvements over time. CQR operators may include registry data custodians, health service organisation administrators, clinicians and Commonwealth, state and territory health departments.

How will it help CQRs?

A major focus of the Framework is helping CQRs deliver timely and meaningful feedback tailored to clinicians, health service organisations and governments. This feedback may include risk-adjusted and granular data depending on the maturity of the CQR. The Framework also:

- Emphasises the role of CQRs in driving improvements in the safety and quality of health care
- Provides guidance to support CQR operations in a digitally enabled health system
- Includes Strategic Principles and Operating Principles that can assist all CQRs, no matter their level of maturity
- Includes a new Quality Standard for CQRs, aligned with the *National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards* (NSQHS Standards), that aims to reduce risks related to data management and promote reporting processes
- Includes self-assessment checklists so CQRs can see how they are performing against the Quality Standard.

Building meaningful partnerships

The Framework emphasises that collaboration and partnership between CQRs, health service organisations and clinicians can achieve better patient outcomes across the healthcare system. It encourages clinicians, clinical teams and health service decision-makers to collaborate on quality improvement activities. The Framework also has an increased focus on engaging consumers, especially vulnerable groups, to ensure their priorities are considered. It includes strategies to include consumers in governance, and create consumer-friendly reports.

Your checklist

- Is your CQR working effectively with governments, health service organisations and clinicians to drive improvements in the safety and quality of care?
- Is your CQR's purpose clearly defined?
- Are roles and responsibilities clearly defined?
- Does your CQR have robust governance arrangements?
- Are registry data stored safely and securely?
- Do reports provide meaningful feedback for the improvement of safety and quality?
- Does your CQR have strong processes to identify and report on unwarranted variation in care?
- Does your CQR have an effective outlier management policy?

SEARCH THE REGISTER

Do you know about the [Australian Register of Clinical Registries \(the Register\)](#)? The Commission hosts the Register to facilitate collaboration and awareness of registry activity within Australia. The Register lists more than 120 clinical registries, audits and databases, and their participating sites.

Supporting resources

The Framework has supporting documents on security compliance and logical architecture:

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