

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.

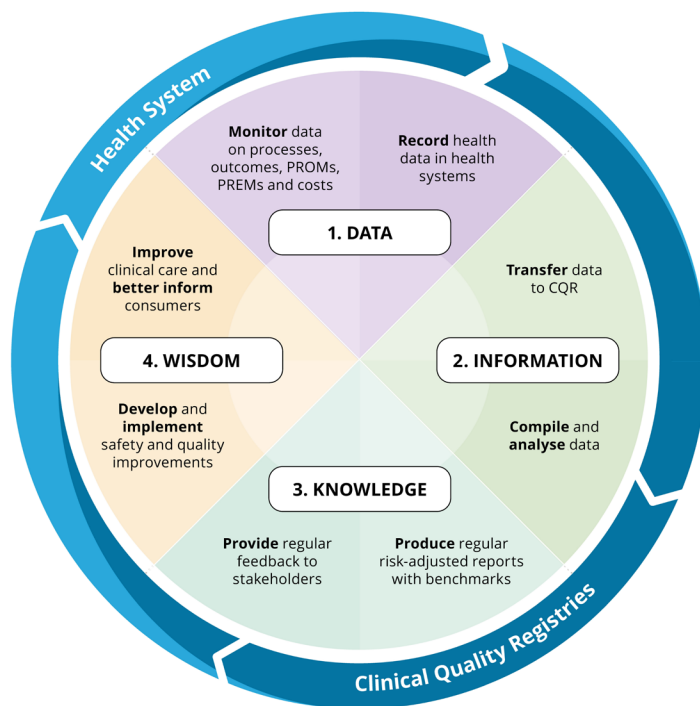
What is the Framework?

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.

Key benefits for health service organisations

- Timely and meaningful reports that inform clinical decision-making
- Confidence in data quality and data security
- Contributing to a learning health system.

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](#).

How will the Framework help health service organisations?

The Framework includes a new Quality Standard for establishing and operating CQRs. This voluntary Quality Standard aligns with the *National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards* (NSQHS Standards) and guides CQRs towards best practice in their work with health service organisations. The Framework has the following key benefits for health service organisations.

Improved feedback and reporting The Quality Standard guides CQRs to deliver timely and meaningful feedback tailored to clinicians, health service organisations and governments through routine and ad hoc reports. CQR reports that inform organisational decision-making will help clinicians and health service organisations achieve improved health outcomes for patients through:

- Supporting health service organisations to identify trends and potential unwarranted variation, and to prioritise areas for quality improvement activities
- Encouraging health service organisations to participate in CQRs, which in turn will provide them with the information they need to improve the safety and quality of care
- Helping health service organisations to collect data that might not be readily available to them through usual means (e.g. audits).

Sound governance The Quality Standard aims to reduce risks related to data collection and management through practical guidance on corporate governance, including data governance.

Meaningful partnerships to improve care The Framework emphasises that collaboration and partnership between CQRs, health service organisations and clinicians can achieve better patient outcomes. It encourages clinicians, clinical teams and health service decision-makers to collaborate on quality improvement activities.

SEARCH THE REGISTER

Do you know which registries your health service organisation is contributing data to? You can find out by searching the [Australian Register of Clinical Registries](#). The Register lists more than 120 clinical registries, audits and databases, and their participating sites.

Your checklist

- Is your health service organisation engaging effectively with CQRs to drive improvements in the safety and quality of the care provided?
- Are your confident CQRs have robust governance arrangements?
- Are you satisfied CQRs are storing data safely and securely?
- Are the data collected by CQRs useful for quality improvement?
- Is your organisation receiving timely reports from CQRs?
- Do the reports support improvements in safety and quality in the organisation?
- Does your organisation have processes to respond to CQR feedback?
- Does your organisation have processes to address outlier performance and unwarranted variation in care?

Using registry data to report actions for improvement

The NSQHS Standards require health service organisations to measure system-wide quality improvement and to provide timely reports to the governing body, workforce and consumers. Health service organisations that show they have integrated CQR data into clinical quality activities will satisfy, in part, the requirements of NSQHS Standards Actions for:

- *Variation in clinical practice and health outcomes (Action 1.28)*
- *Measurement and quality improvement (Action 1.08 and Action 1.09).*