

ADVISORY

TITLE	Notification of significant risk
Advisory number	C25/01
Version number	1.0
TRIM number	D24-49292
Publication date	10/03/25
Replaces	n/a
Compliance with this advisory	It is mandatory for approved accrediting agencies to implement this Advisory
Information in this advisory applies to	All approved accrediting agencies All Services that perform cosmetic surgery
Key relationship	Cosmetic Surgery Standards
Attachment	
Notes	n/a
Responsible officer	Margaret Banks Director, National Standards Phone: 1800 304 056 Email: AdviceCentre@safetyandquality.gov.au
To be reviewed	TBA

ADVISORY

C25/01: Notification of significant risk

PURPOSE:

To describe the requirements for accrediting agencies to notify regulators and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) of significant patient risks identified during assessment to the Cosmetic Surgery Standards.

Note: Health service organisations assessed to the NSQHS Standards and the Cosmetic Surgery Module, must comply with [Advisory A18/09](#) for the notification of significant risk.

ISSUE:

At assessment, assessors may identify a risk that has the potential to cause patient harm and it is sufficiently likely to occur that immediate action is warranted. Accrediting agencies have signed declarations as part of the conditions of approval to notify the Service, the relevant regulator, and the Commission [1] when a significant patient risk is identified during assessment of a Service.

Ministers have tasked the Commission with the coordination of the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme. This includes receiving information about the assessments of Services, including notification of significant risk.

REQUIREMENTS:

Risk is where there is a high probability of a substantial and demonstrable adverse impact for patients if the practice is to continue. In each case, a significant risk will be sufficiently serious to warrant an immediate response to reduce the risks of patient harm. This may include interventions or changes:

- To systems
- To the clinical care service environment
- To clinical practice
- Where there are multiple unmet actions that impact several safety and quality systems.

While the focus of reporting by assessors will be on significant risks of patient harm, it will not necessarily exclude other significant risks.

Where an assessor identifies one or more significant risks that could result in significant harm to patients while they are onsite in a Service, the following actions are to be taken:

1. Assessors are to notify both the Service and their accrediting agency that a significant patient risk has been identified
2. Assessors and/or the accrediting agency are to discuss immediate action to be taken with the Service and require them to develop and submit a plan of action to remedy the risk within 48 hours

3. The accrediting agency is to notify the relevant regulator and the Commission within 48 hours that a significant patient risk has been identified and provide a copy of the action plan as soon as practical.

Completion of the online submission form constitutes notification to the Commission.

<<<< [Notification of Significant Risk: Submission form](#) >>>>

The requirements of the online form are listed below.

About the agency

- Accrediting agency name
- Accrediting agency contact
- Email address

About the Service

- Organisation name
- Address
- Facility ID
- Organisation contact person, title or position and phone number

About the assessment

- Standard being assessed
- Assessment cycle (standard assessment, out-of-cycle assessment)
- Stage (initial or final)
- Number of assessors
- Date significant risk was identified
- Description of the significant risk
- Relevant actions in the standard
- Action taken by the assessor and/or accrediting agency
- Did the organisation provide an action plan? (yes, no)
- Copy of the organisation's action plan

Accrediting agencies are to inform their client and include relevant clauses in any contractual arrangements that information on significant patient risk will be provided to the regulators and the Commission when it is required by regulation, or policy of a government agency.

[\[1\] Policy – Approval under the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation \(AHSSQA\) Scheme to conduct accreditations of health service organisations using the Scheme's standards](#)