

# OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL CARE STANDARDS

## What are clinical care standards?

A clinical care standard is a tool to drive improvement in clinical care that comprises:

- (i) 5-8 quality statements that describe the key aspects of care that a patient should be offered for a specific clinical condition or defined part of a clinical pathway;
- (ii) associated quality measures of process and/or outcomes;
- (iii) potential national indicators;
- (iv) a guide for implementing the clinical care standard;
- (v) decision support tools for patients and clinicians.

## Who is involved?

**Health Ministers** endorse national clinical care standards

**ACSQHC Board** approves outputs and makes recommendations to Health Ministers

**ACSQHC Standing Committees** provide advice and information

**Clinical Care Standards Advisory Committee** provide advice and information

**Topic Working Groups** work with ACSQHC staff to develop standards

**Other partners** provide advice and information

**ACSQHC staff** support the program and work with the Clinical Care Advisory Committee and Topic Working Groups to develop standards

## How are the topics selected?

Clinical care standards will focus on high impact, high burden and high variation areas of clinical care. Information about potential topics will be informed by:

- (i) published evidence
- (ii) ongoing consultation with the Clinical Care Standards Advisory Committee, clinical experts, partner and consumer organisations
- (iii) the work of the Commission regarding unwarranted variation

## How will the clinical care standards be developed?

The process for developing the clinical care standards will involve:

- defining the scope of the standard
- identifying, collating and analysing sources of evidence
- drafting potential quality statements and quality measures
- prioritising and reaching consensus on the quality statements
- drafting national indicators
- identifying potential implementation strategies
- seeking feedback about the draft standard through a peer review process and open consultation process
- refining and finalising the standard based on feedback
- developing a guide to implement the standard developing decision support tools for patients and clinicians
- submitting the standard to Health Ministers for endorsement

## What needs to be addressed to ensure implementation?

To ensure that the clinical care standards achieve their purpose, they need to be respected by the clinical communities and consumers that will be using them. The standards need to be evidence-based, clinically relevant, developed using a robust and transparent methodology, and feasible for wide-scale implementation. Issues that will need to be considered as part of this process include:

- identifying and managing the interests of committee members
- establishing criteria to determine the scope of each standard and the priorities for determining which quality statements will comprise each standard
- establishing an unbiased method for identifying and synthesising the evidence and existing guidelines that will inform each standard
- having a process to support the topic working groups to reach consensus about each quality statement
- determining how to best engage and consult with clinicians, organisations and consumers
- having a process for review/update the clinical care standard.

# Clinical Care Standard development

