

What's new in the PCCM 12th edition 2025

This edition has undergone extensive updates and revisions in line with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guideline development principles. Details of the review process are available on the [PCCM website](#).

We welcome feedback pccm@health.qld.gov.au

General updates

- Contents has a new look
- Increased use of flowcharts and tables
- Links to CREDD (Children's Resuscitation Emergency Drug Dosage) in emergency situations
- Preparation row added in drug boxes for time critical medicines
- Endorsed midwife (EM) added as a prescriber to consult as relevant

Topic changes

New topics	
• Dizziness/vertigo, p. 124	
• Musculoskeletal injuries, p. 150	
• Rash, p. 286	
• Engaging with a person who may be in crisis, p. 335	
• Progestogen-only implant, p. 418	
Combined topics	
Previous	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spider bite (other) • Red-back spider bite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spider bite
Separated topics	
Previous	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple fracture of limbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed fracture of limbs • Plaster backslab
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute wounds • Subungual haematoma (blood under nail)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urticaria, allergic rhinitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urticaria (hives) • Allergic rhinitis is now part of Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) - adult
Renamed topics	
Previous	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient retrieval/evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient retrieval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fractured pelvis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelvic injuries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open (compound) fractures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open fractures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (tooth-knuckle) and animal bites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human and animal bites (and tooth knuckle)

Renamed topics (continued)

Previous	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical contact burns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical burns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciguatera poisoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciguatera fish poisoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-ringed octopus and cone shell envenomation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-ringed octopus and cone shell bite/sting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute bacterial sinusitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute sinusitis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panic attack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neonatal resuscitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn (neonatal) resuscitation

Moved topics

Topic	Moved to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrocutation/electric shock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental emergencies subsection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelvic injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatic injuries subsection (after Abdominal injuries)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penetrating marine injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute wounds subsection (after Water related wounds)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatic rupture of eardrum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear problems in Paediatrics section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciguatera fish poisoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poisoning subsection (after Poisoning and overdose)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouth ulcers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same subsection, now after Dry socket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urticaria (hives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin problems subsection (after Rash)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reordered (refer to contents in PCCM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary prophylaxis for acute rheumatic fever (ARF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post streptococcal diseases subsection (after ARF), in Paediatrics section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termination of pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual and reproductive health section

Content updates

This is a brief summary of key changes to topics, clinical content and recommended practice

1 Patient assessment and transport

Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 information moved to URTI (adult)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISOBAR is now ISBAR

2 Pain, nausea and vomiting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ondansetron drug box - repeat dose added if needed, eg supply (give a treatment dose) for patient to take home
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3 Emergency

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic life support (BLS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR in severe hypothermia advice added • Updated as per Australian Resuscitation Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced life support (ALS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated as per Australian Resuscitation Council • '4 Hs and 4 Ts' - high or low electrolytes + metabolic disorders replaces 'hyper/hypoglycaemia' • Prolonged CPR - anaphylaxis advice added

3 Emergency	
Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sepsis/septic shock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated as per Sepsis pathways (Qld) Tobramycin drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choking (foreign body airway obstruction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagram illustrating back blows added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Button battery ingestion/insertion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue dye can be released with some newer button batteries (does not rule out exposure) Oral jam added as alternative to honey for child < 1 year Prompt added to consider deliberate self harm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute asthma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexamethasone drug box added for child
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drowning/submersion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowchart in Immediate management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypertensive emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydralazine drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dizziness/vertigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New topic for assessment of, red flags and basic management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delirium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4AT assessment test added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traumatic injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary survey now extends to 'E' for exposure, environment, early notification Secondary survey now comprises 'vital signs, history and head to toe assessment'. No longer refers to EFGHIJ Tension pneumothorax signs amended Blast injury added to mechanism of injury Severe crush injury advice added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blunt and penetrating injuries combined to a single 'chest trauma' table PneumoDart® added as option to decompress chest Mid axillary line first site to try decompression, then mid-clavicular if needed Rocket® ambulatory chest drain replaces Heimlich valve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen saturation target increased to $\geq 98\%$ (was 95%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdominal injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider domestic and family violence if pregnant woman with abdominal injury
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvic injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvic binder application photo added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musculoskeletal injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New topic for general assessment, differential diagnosis, and acute lower back pain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plaster backslab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alert box added for pressure injuries related to casts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sprains/soft tissue injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ottawa Ankle/Knee Rule assessments included to assist determining if x-ray required Specific advice to manage mild to moderate ankle sprain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New diagrams for digital nerve block
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of small fish hook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New diagrams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water related wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antibiotics amended for sea water wounds Flucloxacillin and cefalexin drug boxes added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penetrating marine injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lidocaine infiltration included as option for pain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human and animal bites (and tooth knuckle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procaine benzylpenicillin removed as discontinued in Australia

3 Emergency (continued)

Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bat bite/scratch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash bite/scratches for at least 15 minutes (was 5) Flush exposed mucous membranes with copious water advice added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor burns Chemical burns Electrocution/electric shock Nose bleed/epistaxis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial dressing options updated NEB and topical gel added to calcium gluconate drug box Safe distance from high voltage source clearer Discharge advice added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdominal pain causes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Generalised' abdominal area added eg for DKA, endometriosis Ovarian torsion, pregnancy related/retained products of conception (RPOC) added to 'Suprapubic area'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poisoning and overdose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive changes, with focus on resuscitation and stabilisation of patient and early contact with Poisons Information Centre (PIC) Removed toxin specific management table and acetylcysteine drug box, as is always on advice of PIC Individual poisons/toxins/medicines removed from index. Always go to this topic and phone PIC for advice for poisonings or overdoses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Box jellyfish sting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowchart for immediate management added Vinegar applied before picking off tentacles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stinging tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrochloric acid no longer recommended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned with changes to legislation eg 'Collect and store' option Forensic Medical Examination Kit now used Forensic examination - specific advice added eg who can do, who to contact etc
4 General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper respiratory tract infection (adult) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New differential diagnosis table COVID-19 included Allergic rhinitis added to this topic as differential diagnosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pneumonia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procaine benzylpenicillin removed as discontinued in Australia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tooth abscess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe or systemic features - more guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral thrush 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angular cheilitis treatment added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluorescein drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orbital/periorbital cellulitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincomycin drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conjunctivitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New differential diagnosis table
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New topic for assessment, red flags and common causes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urticaria (hives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loratadine added as option for antihistamine (in text)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cellulitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antibiotic flowchart updated Phenoxymethylpenicillin and clindamycin drug boxes added (for Strep infection in non remote/MRSA area)

4 General (continued)

Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cefalexin dose added for significant surrounding cellulitis Topical anaesthetic cream added as option for incision and drainage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impetigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice if already on secondary prophylaxis for ARF added Emphasis on importance of preventing skin infections in parent/carer advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head lice/nits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimeticone gel added as treatment option
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tinea/ringworm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Griseofulvin removed for complicated treatment. Oral terbinafine now preferred
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nappy rash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrocortisone cream 1% added if indicated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shingles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If on face, nose or eye, treatment now oral valaciclovir, or if immunocompromised IV aciclovir
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water added as option for wound cleansing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mosquito borne diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese encephalitis added New tables for presenting symptoms, pathology testing and management

5 Mental health and alcohol withdrawal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorazepam drug box added as option for adult sedation Diazepam drug box now just adults Olanzapine drug box now includes child doses Red flags box added (to consider other causes of behavioural disturbance) Mental health team response times table removed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with a person who may be in crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New topic for easy reference for all mental health topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicidal behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated as per <i>Suicide risk assessment and management in emergency departments (SRAM-ED)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol withdrawal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diazepam for mild withdrawal removed

6 Obstetrics and neonatal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antenatal care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIPA test information added RSV vaccine recommended 28–36 weeks Syphilis risk and testing updated Alert box added if woman concerned about baby's movements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rh D immunoglobulin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIPA test information added Sensitising events updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urinary tract infection (UTI) in pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trimethoprim added as an option in 2nd and 3rd trimester
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preterm labour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal fibronectin testing removed (no longer available). Actim Partus now used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imminent birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syphilis bloods post birth - criteria updated Episiotomy instructions removed

6 Obstetrics and neonatal (continued)

Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of newborn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs and actions if respiratory distress added APGAR score simplified SpO₂ for all babies within 1 hour of birth Syphilis risk information expanded Risk factors/unwell baby table updated Hypoglycaemia management updated, including consideration of glucose gel if at risk of hypoglycaemia Glucose gel drug box added RSV vaccine added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary postpartum haemorrhage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowchart added for management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary postpartum haemorrhage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition amended to 'abnormal or excessive bleeding (or)... prolonged slow trickling with clots' 24 hours to 12 weeks after birth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastitis or breast abscess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastitis treatment now includes - keep milk moving to reduce inflammation, but avoid increased milk removal Australian Breastfeeding Association Live chat function for patient support added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postnatal check 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syphilis and RHD follow up added/updated Support/advice increased

7 Sexual and reproductive health

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progestogen-only implant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New topic to enable RIPRNs to insert/remove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined oral contraceptive pill (COCP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed pill flowchart updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progestogen-only pill (POP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed pill flowchart updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency contraception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulipristal drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Termination of pregnancy (ToP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS-2 Step included for medical ToP in community Mifepristone and misoprostol, paracetamol + codeine, and ondansetron drug boxes added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STI and BBV assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Asymptomatic check-up' renamed to 'Standard asymptomatic check-up rural and remote areas' Annual checks amended from 16–29 years to 15–25 years for all people Patient advice - HIV prevention (PrEP) added STI/BBV management flowchart updated Contact tracing - additional resources added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, trichomonas, M. genitalium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat presumptively if presents with symptoms If sexual contact, treat now if trichomonas, had sexual contact in prior 2 weeks, or if follow up unlikely eg rural or remote area Contact tracing - for M. genitalium changed from 'current partner only' to 'ongoing sexual contacts only' If anorectal discharge/pain suggestive of STI, treatment includes valaciclovir Trichomonas - no need to retest at 3 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaginal thrush (candidiasis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral fluconazole additional treatment option Hydrocortisone 1% ointment for relief of itch if needed

8 Paediatrics	
Topic	What's new
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paediatric presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could it be sepsis and Be button battery aware now in Recommend box Red flags for serious illness updated Vital signs - more instructions of when to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected diphtheria and severe throat pain added as escalation points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexamethasone drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pneumonia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azithromycin drug box added as option for mild pneumonia if allergy to penicillins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute post streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BP criteria for hypertension in child is now in a chart Diagnosis table updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute rheumatic fever (ARF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk factors for ARF or RHD table added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary prophylaxis for acute rheumatic fever (ARF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lidocaine with Bicillin L-A® is an option for managing injection pain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tympanic membrane assessment divided into colour, translucency, position, perforation, mobility, and red flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otitis externa (acute) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ciprofloxacin + hydrocortisone drug box added
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gastroenteritis/dehydration - child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on escalating if re-presentation + reweigh and compare to previous weight each visit Alert box to reconsider diagnosis if re-presentation with suspected gastroenteritis
9 Immunisation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HMP for all immunisations is now the <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> Vaccines added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cholera Mpox Rabies Typhoid
10 Appendices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing injection pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lidocaine drug box add (as option to administer with Bicillin L-A®)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventrogluteal injection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New diagram

Extended practice authority changes

The PCCM editors, with editorial committee support, applied for amendments in [extended practice authorities](#) (EPA) to provide the best possible care to people in rural and isolated areas. In the 12th edition, the medicine changes to the EPAs are in the following Health Management Protocols (HMP):

- **Rural and Isolated Practice RNs (RIPRN), Sexual and Reproductive Health RNs (SRH) and Midwives (MID)** can now initiate:

Clinician	Medicine	HMP
RIPRN	Ondansetron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting, Termination of pregnancy - additional authority to give a treatment dose
	Ciprofloxacin + hydrocortisone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otitis externa
	Ivermectin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scabies
	Etonogestrel eg Implanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progestogen-only implant - if completed training
	Lidocaine 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing injection pain IM route for co-administration with Bicillin L-A®
	Prochlorperazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness/vertigo
	Dexamethasone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma, Croup
SRH	Prednisolone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croup
	Lidocaine 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing injection pain IM route for co-administration with Bicillin L-A®
MID	Ondansetron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting, Termination of Pregnancy - additional authority to give a treatment dose
	Benzathine benzylpenicillin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syphilis - restriction to pregnant women removed eg can now administer postnatally/to partners
	Trimethoprim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTI in pregnancy - as appropriate
	Tranexamic acid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary postpartum haemorrhage

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners (ATSIHP), authorised Indigenous Health Workers (IHW) and Isolated Practice Area Paramedics (IPAP)** can now administer and/or give a treatment dose of the following on prescription:

Clinician	Medicine	HMP
ATSIHP IHW and IPAP	Ulipristal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency contraception
	Ondansetron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and vomiting - additional authority to give a treatment dose
	Ciprofloxacin + hydrocortisone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otitis externa
	Rh D Immunoglobulin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rh D Immunoglobulin - (anti-D)
	Meropenem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sepsis/septic shock
	Fluconazole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaginal thrush
ATSIHP IHW only	Prochlorperazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness/vertigo
	Lidocaine 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing injection pain IM route for co-administration with Bicillin L-A®
IPAP only	Lidocaine + prilocaine (Emla)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing injection pain (order from prescriber not required)
	Cefotaxime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sepsis/septic shock, Meningitis
	Ketorolac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renal colic