

# Queensland Clinical Guidelines

*Translating evidence into best clinical practice*

## Maternity and Neonatal **Clinical Guideline**

### Guideline Supplement: Newborn baby assessment (routine)

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## **1 Introduction**

This document is a supplement to the Queensland Clinical Guideline (QCG) *Newborn baby assessment (routine)*. It provides supplementary information regarding guideline development, makes summary recommendations, suggests measures to assist implementation and quality activities and summarises changes (if any) to the guideline since original publication. Refer to the guideline for abbreviations, acronyms, flow charts and acknowledgements.

### **1.1 Funding**

The development of this guideline was funded by Healthcare Improvement Unit, Queensland Health. Consumer representatives were paid a standard fee. Other working party members participated on a voluntary basis.

### **1.2 Conflict of interest**

Declarations of conflict of interest were sought from working party members as per the Queensland Clinical Guidelines [Conflict of Interest](#) statement. No conflict of interest was identified.

### **1.3 Development process**

This version of the guideline followed the QCG [Peer review](#).

## 1.4 Summary of changes

Queensland clinical guidelines are reviewed every 5 years or earlier if significant new evidence emerges. Table 1 provides a summary of changes made to the guidelines since original publication.

Table 1. Summary of change

Publication date <i>Endorsed by:</i>	Identifier	Summary of major change
02/07/2009	NN0907.4-V1-R11	First publication
22/08/2011	MN09.4-V2-R11	Name and format updates
25/10/2011	MN09.4-V3-R14	Review date extended until 2014
20/10/2014	MN14.4-V4-R19	First full review Guideline supplement developed
17/06/2019	MN19.4-V5-R21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-endorsed as current.</li> <li>• Review date extended 2021</li> </ul>
<b>November 2021</b>  <i>Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network (Qld)</i>	MN21.4-V6-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review.</li> <li>• Formatting and minor rewording</li> <li>• Topics relevant to <i>Standard care</i> guideline removed and cross referenced (e.g. family centred care; clinical standards).</li> <li>• Population guideline applicable to inclusive of newborn babies from 34+0 weeks gestation</li> <li>• Flowchart: Routine newborn assessment               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Further investigation box-added FGR/macrosomia</li> <li>◦ Discharge box re-worded</li> <li>◦ Newborn baby assessment (routine) from pulse oximetry screening 'is optional' to 'is recommended'</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Added Flowchart: Management of newborn baby during pulse oximetry screening for CCHD</li> <li>• Added Flowchart: Flow Chart: Pulse oximetry screening of newborn baby for critical congenital heart disease</li> <li>• Added Flowchart: Newborn bloodspot screening test</li> <li>• Definitions—additional terms included and terminology changes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ From gender to sex</li> <li>◦ From premature to preterm</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pulse oximetry screening for CCHD               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Recommendation for all babies to be offered screening</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2. Initial examination and assessment Added: HIE, newborn observations and hypoglycaemia</li> </ul>

<b>Publication date</b> <i>Endorsed by:</i>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Summary of major change</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Discharge planning Additional information about NBST and hepatitis B vaccination</li> </ul>
<b>February 2025</b>	MN21.4-V7-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated following publication of Newborn bloodspot screening (NBS) guideline                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deleted flowchart Newborn bloodspot screening</li> <li>○ Amended Section 5.1 Screening newborn baby to reference and align with NBS</li> <li>○ References updated, minor formatting and template alignment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 2 Methodology

Queensland Clinical Guidelines (QCG) follows a rigorous process of guideline development. This process was endorsed by the Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Executive Committee in December 2009. The guidelines are best described as 'evidence informed consensus guidelines' and draw from the evidence base of existing national and international guidelines and the expert opinion of the working party.

### 2.1 Topic identification

The topic was identified as (a priority by the Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network) at a (forum in 2009).

### 2.2 Scope

The scope of the guideline was determined using the following framework.

Table 2. Scope framework

Scope framework	
<b>Population</b>	Well and healthy newborn babies greater than or equal to 34+0 weeks gestation
<b>Purpose</b>	Identify relevant evidence related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination and assessment of the newborn baby, and identification of any anomalies</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome</b>	Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete examination and assessment of the newborn baby</li> <li>• Early identification of any minor and major anomalies</li> <li>• Early referral when indicated</li> </ul>
<b>Exclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed educational information about normal and/or abnormal findings related to a newborn baby examination</li> <li>• Additional or specialist examinations or assessment for newborn babies who have a known or suspected condition (e.g. cardiac disease)</li> <li>• Specific management of any conditions or anomalies</li> </ul>

### 2.3 Clinical questions

The following clinical questions were generated to inform the guideline scope and purpose:

- What are the clinical standards required for newborn baby assessment?
- What are the best practice considerations before and during a newborn baby examination?
- What are the recommended timeframes for performance of the initial and subsequent newborn examinations?
- What routine screening tests are recommended for newborn babies?
- What anomalies require referral and/or follow up?
- What discharge planning is required?

## 2.4 Search strategy

A search of the literature was conducted during February 2021–March 2021. A further search was conducted in September 2021. The QCG search strategy is an iterative process that is repeated and amended as guideline development occurs (e.g. if additional areas of interest emerge, areas of contention requiring more extensive review are identified or new evidence is identified). All guidelines are developed using a basic search strategy. This involves both a formal and informal approach.

Table 3. Basic search strategy

Step		Consideration
1.	Review clinical guidelines developed by other reputable groups relevant to the clinical speciality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may include national and/or international guideline writers, professional organisations, government organisations, state based groups.</li> <li>• This assists the guideline writer to identify:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The scope and breadth of what others have found useful for clinicians and informs the scope and clinical question development</li> <li>○ Identify resources commonly found in guidelines such as flowcharts, audit criteria and levels of evidence</li> <li>○ Identify common search and key terms</li> <li>○ Identify common and key references</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	Undertake a foundation search using key search terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct a search using common search and key terms identified during Step 1 above</li> <li>• Search the following databases               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PubMed</li> <li>○ CINAHL</li> <li>○ Medline</li> <li>○ Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials</li> <li>○ EBSCO</li> <li>○ Embase</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Studies published in English less than or equal to 5 years previous are reviewed in the first instance. Other years may be searched as are relevant to the topic</li> <li>• Save and document the search</li> <li>• Add other databases as relevant to the clinical area</li> </ul>
3.	Develop search word list for each clinical question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may require the development of clinical sub-questions beyond those identified in the initial scope.</li> <li>• Using the foundation search performed at Step 2 as the baseline search framework, refine the search using the specific terms developed for the clinical question</li> <li>• Save and document the search strategy undertaken for each clinical question</li> </ul>
4.	Other search strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search the reference lists of reports and articles for additional studies</li> <li>• Access other sources for relevant literature               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Known resource sites</li> <li>○ Internet search engines</li> <li>○ Relevant textbooks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 2.4.1 Keywords

The following keywords were used in the basic search strategy: Newborn assessment, newborn check, congenital, newborn examination, pulse oximetry. Other keywords may have been used for specific aspects of the guideline.

## 2.5 Consultation

Major consultative and development processes occurred between April 2021 and September 2021.

Table 4. Major guideline development processes

Process	Activity
<b>Original development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original consultative and development processes occurred between February 2021 and September 2021</li> <li>This included formation of a working party and statewide consultation as per usual QCG process</li> <li>A survey of clinician opinion was also conducted</li> </ul>
<b>Decision for peer review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of the guideline scope, clinical questions and current literature was undertaken in March 2021</li> <li>Areas of clinical practice change were identified</li> <li>Clinical leads               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the previous scope and version of the guideline</li> <li>Reviewed identified areas of clinical practice change</li> <li>Confirmed aspects of the guideline for update and new inclusions</li> <li>Reached consensus agreement that a peer review process was appropriate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert clinicians and a consumer representative were identified by the clinical leads and invited to peer review the updated guideline in April 2021</li> <li>Most invited members accepted</li> </ul>

## 2.6 Endorsement

The guideline was endorsed by the:

- Queensland Clinical Guidelines Steering Committee in November 2021
- Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network (Queensland) in November 2021

## 2.7 Citation

The recommended citation of Queensland Clinical Guidelines is in the following format:

Queensland Clinical Guidelines. [Insert Guideline Title]. Guideline No. [Insert Guideline Number]. Queensland Health. [Insert Year of Publication]. Available from: [www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg).

### EXAMPLE:

Queensland Clinical Guidelines. Normal birth. Guideline No. MN17.25-V3-R22. Queensland Health 2017. Available from: [www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg).



### 3 Levels of evidence

The levels of evidence identified by the GRADE system were used to inform the summary recommendations.

Note that the 'consensus' definition in Table 5. Levels of evidence (GRADE) relates to forms of evidence that are not identified by the GRADE system and/or that arise from the clinical experience of the guideline's clinical lead(s) and working party.

Table 5. Levels of evidence (GRADE)

GRADE Levels of evidence	
<b>1++</b>	Evidence obtained from high quality meta-analyses, systematic reviews of RCTs, or RCTs with a very low risk of bias.
<b>1+</b>	Evidence obtained from well conducted meta-analyses, systematic reviews of RCTs, or RCTs with a low risk of bias.
<b>1</b>	Evidence obtained from meta-analyses, systematic reviews or RCTs, or RCTs with a high risk of bias.
<b>2++</b>	Evidence obtained from high quality systematic reviews of case-control or cohort studies or high quality case-control or cohort studies with a very low risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a high probability that the relationship is causal.
<b>2+</b>	Evidence obtained from well conducted case-control or cohort studies with a low risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a moderate probability that the relationship is causal.
<b>2-</b>	Evidence obtained from case-control or cohort studies with a high risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a significant risk that the relationship is not causal.
<b>3</b>	Evidence obtained from non-analytic studies, e.g. case reports, case series.
<b>4</b>	Expert opinion.
<b>Consensus</b>	Agreement between clinical lead, working party and other clinical experts.

#### 3.1 Summary recommendations

Summary recommendations and levels of evidence are outlined in Table 6. Summary recommendations.

Table 6. Summary recommendations

Recommendations		GRADE of evidence
1.	Observe baby during first few hours after birth using newborn early warning tool (NEWT)	Consensus
2.	Perform a full and detailed examination of the newborn baby within 48 hours of birth	Consensus
3.	Involve the parents in the examination and discuss the purpose, process, timing and outcome with them	Consensus
4.	Use a systematic head to toe and front to back approach	Consensus
5.	Offer all babies a newborn hearing screen	Consensus
6.	Offer all babies pulse oximetry screening for congenital heart disease	Consensus
7.	Offer all babies a newborn bloodspot screening test at 48–72 hours of age and repeat as indicated	Consensus
8.	Document and communicate relevant findings with other health care providers	Consensus
9.	If serious anomaly is identified refer the baby urgently for review and management	Consensus
10.	Discuss relevant parenting and health education issues with the baby's parent(s) prior to discharge	Consensus

## 4 Implementation

This guideline is applicable to all Queensland public and private maternity facilities. It can be downloaded in Portable Document Format (PDF) from [www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg)

### 4.1 Guideline resources

The following guideline components are provided on the website as separate resources:

- Flowchart: Routine newborn baby assessment
- Flowchart: Management of newborn baby during pulse oximetry screening for CCHD
- Flowchart: Pulse oximetry screening of newborn baby for critical congenital heart disease
- Education resource: Newborn baby assessment (routine)
- Knowledge assessment: Newborn baby assessment (routine)
- Auditing resources: Newborn baby assessment (routine)
- Parent information: Newborn baby assessment

### 4.2 Suggested resources

During the development process stakeholders identified additional resources with potential to complement and enhance guideline implementation and application. The following resources have not been sourced or developed by QCG but are suggested as complimentary to the guideline:

- Training and assessment resources for clinicians to undertake full newborn examination
- Local protocols for pulse oximetry screening

### 4.3 Implementation measures

Suggested activities to assist implementation of the guideline are outlined below.

#### 4.3.1 Implications for implementation

The following areas may have implications for local implementation of the guideline recommendations. It is suggested they be considered for successful guideline implementation.

- Economic considerations including opportunity costs
- Human resource requirements including clinician skill mix and scope of practice
- Clinician education and training
- Equipment and consumables purchase and maintenance
- Consumer acceptance
- Model of care and service delivery

#### 4.3.2 QCG measures

- Notify Chief Executive Officer and relevant stakeholders
- Monitor emerging new evidence to ensure guideline reflects contemporaneous practice
- Capture user feedback
- Record and manage change requests

#### 4.3.3 Hospital and Health Service measures

Initiate, promote and support local systems and processes to integrate the guideline into clinical practice, including:

- Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Executive endorse the guidelines and their use in the HHS and communicate this to staff
- Promote the introduction of the guideline to relevant health care professionals
- Support education and training opportunities relevant to the guideline and service capabilities
- Align clinical care with guideline recommendations
- Undertake relevant implementation activities as outlined in the *Guideline implementation checklist* available at [www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg)

## 4.4 Quality measures

Auditing of guideline recommendations and content assists with identifying quality of care issues and provides evidence of compliance with the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards<sup>1</sup> [Refer to Table 7. NSQHS Standard 1]. Suggested audit and quality measures are identified in Table 8. Clinical quality measures.

Table 7. NSQHS Standard 1

NSQHS Standard 1: Clinical governance	
Clinical performance and effectiveness	
Criterion 1.27:	Actions required:
Evidence based care	a. Provide clinicians with ready access to best-practice guidelines, integrated care pathways, clinical pathways and decision support tools relevant to their clinical practice
	b. Support clinicians to use the best available evidence, including relevant clinical care standards developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The following clinical quality measures are suggested:

Table 8. Clinical quality measures

No	Audit criteria	Guideline section
1.	Proportion of babies who have a completed NEWT	2 Initial examination and assessment after birth 3.3.1 History
2.	Proportion of babies who have a full newborn baby examination at 48 hours of age	3.1 Timing of assessment
3.	Proportion of babies who have a CCHD pulse oximetry screening within recommended timeframes	3.2 Pulse oximetry screening
4.	Proportion of babies who have their red reflex assessed	3.4 Physical examination
5.	Proportion of clinicians (when assessed) who perform a head to toe and front to back examination of the baby	3.4 Physical examination
6.	Proportion of babies offered a newborn hearing screen	5.1 Screening newborn
7.	Proportion of babies who have a satisfactory first collection of the NBST	5.1 Screening newborn

## 4.5 Areas for future research

During development the following areas were identified as having limited or poor quality evidence to inform clinical decision making. Further research in these areas may be useful.

- Nil identified

## 4.6 Safety and quality

In conjunction with the Queensland Clinical Guideline *Standard care*<sup>2</sup>, implementation of this guideline provides evidence of compliance with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

Table 9. NSQHS

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 1: Clinical governance</b>		
<b>Patient safety and quality systems</b> Safety and quality systems are integrated with governance processes to enable organisations to actively manage and improve the safety and quality of health care for patients.	<b>Diversity and high risk groups</b> 1.15 The health service organisation: a. Identifies the diversity of the consumers using its services b. Identifies groups of patients using its services who are at higher risk of harm c. Incorporates information on the diversity of its consumers and higher-risk groups into the planning and delivery of care	☑ Assessment and care appropriate to the cohort of patients is identified in the guideline ☑ High risk groups are identified in the guideline ☑ The guideline is based on the best available evidence
<b>Clinical performance and effectiveness</b> The workforce has the right qualifications, skills and supervision to provide safe, high-quality health care to patients.	<b>Evidence based care</b> 1.27 The health service organisation has processes that: a. Provide clinicians with ready access to best-practice guidelines, integrated care pathways, clinical pathways and decision support tools relevant to their clinical practice b. Support clinicians to use the best available evidence, including relevant clinical care standards developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	☑ Queensland Clinical Guidelines is funded by Queensland Health to develop clinical guidelines relevant to the service line to guide safe patient care across Queensland ☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ The guideline is endorsed for use in Queensland Health facilities. ☑ A desktop icon is available on every Queensland Health computer desktop to provide quick and easy access to the guideline
	<b>Performance management</b> 1.22 The health service organisation has valid and reliable performance review processes that: a. Require members of the workforce to regularly take part in a review of their performance b. Identify needs for training and development in safety and quality c. Incorporate information on training requirements into the organisation's training system	☑ The guideline has accompanying educational resources to support ongoing safety and quality education for identified professional and personal development. The resources are freely available on the internet <a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg">http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg</a>

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 1: Clinical governance</b>		
<b>Patient safety and quality systems</b> Safety and quality systems are integrated with governance processes to enable organisations to actively manage and improve the safety and quality of health care for patients.	<b>Policies and procedures</b> 1.07 The health service organisation uses a risk management approach to: a. Set out, review, and maintain the currency and effectiveness of, policies, procedures and protocols b. Monitor and take action to improve adherence to policies, procedures and protocols c. Review compliance with legislation, regulation and jurisdictional requirements	☑ QCG has established processes to review and maintain all guidelines and associated resources ☑ Change requests are managed to ensure currency of published guidelines ☑ Implementation tools and checklist are provided to assist with adherence to guidelines ☑ Suggested audit criteria are provided in guideline supplement ☑ The guidelines comply with legislation, regulation and jurisdictional requirements
<b>NSQHS Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers</b>		
<b>Health literacy</b> Health service organisations communicate with consumers in a way that supports effective partnerships.	<b>Communication that supports effective partnerships</b> 2.08 The health service organisation uses communication mechanisms that are tailored to the diversity of the consumers who use its services and, where relevant, the diversity of the local community 2.09 Where information for patients, carers, families and consumers about health and health services is developed internally, the organisation involves consumers in its development and review 2.10 The health service organisation supports clinicians to communicate with patients, carers, families and consumers about health and health care so that: a. Information is provided in a way that meets the needs of patients, carers, families and consumers b. Information provided is easy to understand and use c. The clinical needs of patients are addressed while they are in the health service organisation d. Information needs for ongoing care are provided on discharge	☑ Consumer consultation was sought and obtained during the development of the guideline. Refer to the acknowledgement section of the guideline for details ☑ Consumer information is developed to align with the guideline and included consumer involvement during development and review ☑ The consumer information was developed using plain English and with attention to literacy and ease of reading needs of the consumer
<b>Partnering with consumers in organisational design and governance</b> Consumers are partners in the design and governance of the organisation.	<b>Partnerships in healthcare governance planning, design, measurement and evaluation</b> 2.11 The health service organisation: a. Involves consumers in partnerships in the governance of, and to design, measure and evaluate, health care b. Has processes so that the consumers involved in these partnerships reflect the diversity of consumers who use the service or, where relevant, the diversity of the local community 2.14 The health service organisation works in partnership with consumers to incorporate their views and experiences into training and education for the workforce	☑ Consumers are members of guideline working parties ☑ The guideline is based on the best available evidence ☑ The guidelines and consumer information are endorsed by the QCG and Queensland Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network Steering Committees which includes consumer membership

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers</b>		
<b>Partnering with consumers in their own care</b> Systems that are based on partnering with patients in their own care are used to support the delivery of care. Patients are partners in their own care to the extent that they choose	<b>Healthcare rights and informed consent</b> 2.04 The health service organisation ensures that its informed consent processes comply with legislation and best practice 2.05 The health service organisation has processes to identify: a. The capacity of a patient to make decisions about their own care b. A substitute decision-maker if a patient does not have the capacity to make decisions for themselves	☑ This guideline and consumer information provides information for consumers to make informed decisions ☑ This guideline promotes informed consent
	<b>Shared decisions and planning care</b> 2.06 The health service organisation has processes for clinicians to partner with patients and/or their substitute decision-maker to plan, communicate, set goals, and make decisions about their current and future care 2.07 The health service organisation supports the workforce to form partnerships with patients and carers so that patients can be actively involved in their own care	☑ Consumer information is available for this guideline ☑ Consumers are members of guideline working parties
<b>NSQHS Standard 3: Preventing and controlling infections</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement systems are in place to prevent and control infections, and support antimicrobial stewardship and sustainable use of infection prevention and control resources</b> Systems are in place to support and promote prevention and control of infections, improve antimicrobial stewardship, and support appropriate, safe and sustainable use of infection prevention and control resources in the health service organisation.	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 3.01 The workforce uses the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for infection prevention and control b. Identifying and managing risks associated with infections c. Implementing policies and procedures for antimicrobial stewardship d. Identifying and managing antimicrobial stewardship risks	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ Recommendations for use of antimicrobials are evidence based
<b>Infection prevention and control systems</b> Patients, consumers and members of the workforce with suspected or confirmed infection are identified promptly, and appropriate action is taken. This includes persons with risk factors for transmitting or acquiring infection, or colonisation with an organism of local, national or global significance.	<b>Standard and transmission-based precautions</b> 3.06 The health service organisation has processes to apply standard transmission-based precautions that are consistent with the current edition of the <i>Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare</i> , jurisdictional requirements, and relevant jurisdictional laws and policies, including work health and safety laws.	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ Assessment and care appropriate to the cohort of patients is identified in the guideline ☑ High risk groups are identified in the guideline if applicable

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 3: Preventing and controlling infections</b>		
<b>Antimicrobial stewardship</b> The health service organisation has systems for the safe and appropriate prescribing and use of antimicrobials as part of an antimicrobial stewardship program	<b>Antimicrobial stewardship</b> 3.18 The health service organisation has an antimicrobial stewardship program that: a. Includes an antimicrobial stewardship policy b. Provides access to, and promotes the use of, current evidence-based Australian therapeutic guidelines and resources on antimicrobial prescribing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendations for use of antimicrobials are evidence based <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If applicable, Australian therapeutic guidelines and resources were used to develop guideline recommendations
<b>NSQHS Standard 4: Medication safety</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support medication management</b> Organisation-wide systems are used to support and promote safety for procuring, supplying, storing, compounding, manufacturing, prescribing, dispensing, administering and monitoring the effects of medicines	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 4.01 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for medication management b. Managing risks associated with medication management c. Identifying training requirements for medication management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides current evidence based recommendations about medication
<b>NSQHS Standard 5: Comprehensive care</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support comprehensive care</b> Systems are in place to support clinicians to deliver comprehensive care	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 5.01 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for comprehensive care b. Managing risks associated with comprehensive care c. Identifying training requirements to deliver comprehensive care <b>Partnering with consumers</b> 5.03 Clinicians use organisational processes from the Partnering with Consumers Standard when providing comprehensive care to: a. Actively involve patients in their own care b. Meet the patient's information needs c. Share decision-making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline has accompanying educational resources to support ongoing safety and quality education for identified professional and personal development. The resources are freely available on the internet <a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg">http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg</a> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer information is developed for the guideline



NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 6: Communicating for safety</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support effective communication</b> Systems are in place for effective and coordinated communication that supports the delivery of continuous and safe care for patients.	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 6.01 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures to support effective clinical communication b. Managing risks associated with clinical communication c. Identifying training requirements for effective and coordinated clinical communication <b>Partnering with consumers</b> 6.03 Clinicians use organisational processes from the Partnering with Consumers Standard to effectively communicate with patients, carers and families during high-risk situations to: a. Actively involve patients in their own care b. Meet the patient's information needs c. Share decision-making <b>Organisational processes to support effective communication</b> 6.04 The health service organisation has clinical communications processes to support effective communication when: a. Identification and procedure matching should occur b. All or part of a patient's care is transferred within the organisation, between multidisciplinary teams, between clinicians or between organisations; and on discharge c. Critical information about a patient's care, including information on risks, emerges or changes	☑ Requirements for effective clinical communication by clinicians are identified ☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for communication between clinicians ☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for communication with patients, carers and families ☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for discharge planning and follow –up care
<b>Communication of critical information</b> Systems to effectively communicate critical information and risks when they emerge or change are used to ensure safe patient care.	<b>Communicating critical information</b> 6.09 Clinicians and multidisciplinary teams use clinical communication processes to effectively communicate critical information, alerts and risks, in a timely way, when they emerge or change to: a. Clinicians who can make decisions about care b. Patients, carers and families, in accordance with the wishes of the patient 6.10 The health service organisation ensures that there are communication processes for patients, carers and families to directly communicate critical information and risks about care to clinicians	☑ Requirements for effective clinical communication of critical information are identified ☑ Requirements for escalation of care are identified



NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 6: Communicating for safety (continued)</b>		
<b>Correct identification and procedure matching</b> Systems to maintain the identity of the patient are used to ensure that the patient receives the care intended for them.	<b>Correct identification and procedure matching</b> 6.05 The health service organisation: a. Defines approved identifiers for patients according to best-practice guidelines b. Requires at least three approved identifiers on registration and admission; when care, medication, therapy and other services are provided; and when clinical handover, transfer or discharge documentation is generated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements for safe and for correct patient identification are identified
<b>Communicating at clinical handover</b> Processes for structured clinical handover are used to effectively communicate about the health care of patients.	<b>Clinical handover</b> 6.07 The health service organisation, in collaboration with clinicians, defines the: a. Minimum information content to be communicated at clinical handover, based on best-practice guidelines b. Risks relevant to the service context and the particular needs of patients, carers and families c. Clinicians who are involved in the clinical handover 6.08 Clinicians use structured clinical handover processes that include: a. Preparing and scheduling clinical handover b. Having the relevant information at clinical handover c. Organising relevant clinicians and others to participate in clinical handover d. Being aware of the patient's goals and preferences e. Supporting patients, carers and families to be involved in clinical handover, in accordance with the wishes of the patient f. Ensuring that clinical handover results in the transfer of responsibility and accountability for care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline acknowledges the need for local protocols to support transfer of information, professional responsibility and accountability for some or all aspects of care

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 7: Blood management</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support blood management</b> Organisation-wide governance and quality improvement systems are used to ensure safe and high-quality care of patients' own blood, and to ensure that blood product requirements are met.	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 7.01 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for blood management b. Managing risks associated with blood management c. Identifying training requirements for blood management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for use of blood products
<b>Prescribing and clinical use of blood and blood products</b> The clinical use of blood and blood products is appropriate, and strategies are used to reduce the risks associated with transfusion.	<b>Optimising and conserving patients' own blood</b> 7.04 Clinicians use the blood and blood products processes to manage the need for, and minimise the inappropriate use of, blood and blood products by: a. Optimising patients' own red cell mass, haemoglobin and iron stores b. Identifying and managing patients with, or at risk of, bleeding c. Determining the clinical need for blood and blood products, and related risks <b>Prescribing and administering blood and blood products</b> 7.06 The health service organisation supports clinicians to prescribe and administer blood and blood products appropriately, in accordance with national guidelines and national criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for use of blood products <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline is consistent with recommendations of national guidelines

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 8: Recognising and responding to acute deterioration</b>		
<p><b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support recognition and response systems</b></p> <p>Organisation-wide systems are used to support and promote detection and recognition of acute deterioration, and the response to patients whose condition acutely deteriorates.</p>	<p><b>Integrating clinical governance</b></p> <p>8.01 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implementing policies and procedures for recognising and responding to acute deterioration</li> <li>b. Managing risks associated with recognising and responding to acute deterioration</li> <li>c. Identifying training requirements for recognising and responding to acute deterioration</li> </ul> <p><b>Partnering with consumers</b></p> <p>8.03 Clinicians use organisational processes from the Partnering with Consumers Standard when recognising and responding to acute deterioration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Actively involve patients in their own care</li> <li>b. Meet the patient's information needs</li> <li>c. Share decision-making</li> </ul> <p><b>Recognising acute deterioration</b></p> <p>8.04 The health service organisation has processes for clinicians to detect acute physiological deterioration that require clinicians to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Document individualised vital sign monitoring plans</li> <li>b. Monitor patients as required by their individualised monitoring plan</li> <li>c. Graphically document and track changes in agreed observations to detect acute deterioration over time, as appropriate for the patient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ The guideline is consistent with National Consensus statements recommendations</li> <li>☑ The guideline recommends use of tools consistent with the principles of recognising and responding to clinical deterioration</li> <li>☑ Consumer information is developed for the guideline</li> </ul>

## References

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2021 August 16]. Available from: [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au).
2. Queensland Clinical Guidelines. Standard care. Guideline No. MN18.50-V1-R23. [Internet]. Queensland Health. 2018. [cited 2021 August 17]. Available from: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg>.