

# Queensland Clinical Guidelines

*Translating evidence into best clinical practice*

## Maternity and Neonatal **Clinical Guideline**

### Guideline supplement: Maternity care for mothers and babies during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Table of Contents**

1	Introduction .....	3
1.1	Funding .....	3
1.2	Development process .....	3
1.3	Conflict of interest .....	3
2	Summary of changes.....	4
3	Methodology .....	8
3.1	Topic identification .....	8
3.2	Scope .....	8
3.3	Clinical questions .....	8
3.4	Search strategy .....	9
3.4.1	Keywords .....	9
3.5	Consultation .....	10
3.6	Endorsement .....	10
3.7	Citation .....	10
4	Levels of evidence .....	10
4.1	Summary recommendations .....	10
5	Implementation .....	11
5.1	Guideline resources .....	11
5.2	Suggested resources .....	11
5.3	Implementation measures .....	11
5.3.1	Implications for implementation .....	11
5.3.2	QCG measures .....	11
5.3.3	Hospital and Health Service measures .....	11
5.4	Quality measures .....	12
5.5	Clinical quality measures .....	12
5.6	Areas for future research .....	12
5.7	Safety and quality .....	13
	References .....	18

**List of Tables**

Table 1. Summary of change .....	4
Table 2. Scope framework.....	8
Table 3. Basic search strategy .....	9
Table 4. Major guideline development processes .....	10
Table 5. Summary recommendations.....	10
Table 6. NSQHS Standard 1 .....	12
Table 7. NSQHS Criteria .....	13

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## **1 Introduction**

This document is a supplement to the Queensland Clinical Guideline (QCG) *Perinatal care with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in pregnant women*. 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 Development process**

A fast-tracked development was undertaken with limited and targeted consultation with key stakeholders and clinical experts. Usual QCG process was not followed in their entirety due to the requirement for rapid development and publication. Version 4 of this guideline included

### **1.3 Conflict of interest**

Declarations of conflict of interest were not sought due to the time constraints associated with rapid development.

## 2 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

<b>Publication date</b> <i>Endorsed by:</i>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Summary of major change</b>
March 26 2020	MN20.63-V1-R25	First publication
April 14 2020	MN20.63-V2-R25	<p>New sections added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Home visiting</li> <li>• Recommendations for maternity care (all women)</li> <li>• Clinical emergencies</li> <li>• Maternal discharge</li> <li>• Newborn risk management</li> <li>• Newborn discharge</li> <li>• Neonatal ventilation set-up</li> </ul> <p>Updated recommendations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatient hospital visiting</li> <li>• Intrapartum PPE</li> <li>• Nitrous oxide use</li> <li>• Waterbirth</li> <li>• Newborn testing</li> </ul> <p>Updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title of guideline</li> <li>• Flowcharts to align with text</li> <li>• References</li> <li>• Minor formatting and document flow</li> </ul>
April 29 2020	MN20.63-V3-R25	<p>New sections added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowchart for inpatient assessment</li> <li>• Risk of VTE</li> <li>• Modified antenatal and postnatal schedule during COVID-19</li> </ul> <p>Updated information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antenatal corticosteroids</li> </ul>

Publication date <i>Endorsed by:</i>	Identifier	Summary of major change
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tocolysis</li> <li>• Appendix C to clarify viral/bacterial filter requirements</li> </ul> <p>Updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgements</li> </ul>
September 2020	MN20.63-V4-R25	<p>New sections added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to the evolving COVID-19 situation</li> </ul> <p>Updated recommendations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific recommendations for maternity care (all women) to include <i>if local risk is low</i></li> <li>• PPE</li> <li>• Neonatal filters</li> <li>• Water immersion and water birth</li> </ul> <p>Detail replaced with link to external source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing criteria</li> <li>• Infection prevention and control</li> <li>• Visitor restrictions</li> <li>• Self-isolation requirements</li> <li>• Specimen collection</li> <li>• PPE use</li> </ul> <p>Updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• References</li> <li>• Minor formatting</li> </ul>
March 2021	MN20.63-V5-R25	<p>New Section inserted (with incremental increase in subsequent numbers within section)</p> <p>1.2 Vaccination</p>
September 2021	MN20.63-V6-R25	<p>Interim update to address vaccination recommendations in pregnancy</p> <p>New Sections added (with incremental increase in subsequent numbers within section)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2 Pregnancy outcomes and COVID-19</li> <li>• 1.3 Risk factors for severe COVID-19</li> </ul> <p>Updated recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.4 Vaccination</li> </ul> <p>Updated information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flowchart: Risk assessment of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 pregnant women</li> <li>• Table 12 frequency of reported symptoms in pregnant women</li> <li>• Table 1. Evidence for vertical transmission updated</li> </ul>

Publication date <i>Endorsed by:</i>	Identifier	Summary of major change
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 17: Management and treatment amended to reference National COVID-19 Evidence taskforce recommendations</li> <li>Newborn COVID-19 testing recommendations amended</li> <li>References partially reviewed</li> </ul>
November 2021	MN21.63-V7-R26	<p>Full review and update of literature and references</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flowchart: <i>Location and precautions if SCOVID or COVID-19</i>, including rapid PCR testing</li> <li>Section: <i>Peripartum risk management</i> with abbreviated and reordered infection prevention and control information</li> <li>Section: <i>Clinical course in pregnancy and postpartum</i></li> <li>Recommendations for ACE inhibitors, carboprost, tranexamic acid, low dose aspirin, delayed cord clamping, neonatal testing for COVID-19, neonatal administration of vitamin K, hepatitis B vaccine and immunoglobulin</li> <li>Information for neonatal supportive care</li> </ul> </li> <li>Updated information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination</li> <li>Organisation of neonatal unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>Deleted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flowchart Assessment of inpatient woman</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
January 2022	MN21.63-V8-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Booster vaccination recommended</li> </ul> </li> <li>Updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omicron added as variant of concern</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
January 2022	MN21.63-V9-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deleted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flowchart: Location and precautions if SCOVID or COVID-19</li> <li>Requirement for designated hospital care of SCOVID or COVID-19 cases</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
February 2022	MN21.63-V10-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition of newborn close contact</li> <li>Newborn flowchart</li> <li>Admission to neonatal unit of close contact</li> <li>Minor formatting and references</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
March 2022	MN21.63-V11-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neonatal flowchart to include close contact testing and isolation/quarantine requirements</li> <li>Visitor restrictions to a neonatal unit specified</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Publication date <i>Endorsed by:</i>	Identifier	Summary of major change
April 2022	MN21.63-V12-R26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flowchart: <i>Care of SCVOID or COVID-19 peripartum woman</i> with new definitions/management of close contacts</li> <li>○ Timing of COVID-19 vaccination administration after COVID-19 infection (FROM: within 4 months TO: following resolution of symptoms and within 4 months)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 3 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.

#### 3.1 Topic identification

The topic was identified as a priority by the Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network in response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Feb 2020

#### 3.2 Scope

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

Table 2. Scope framework

Scope framework	
<b>Population</b>	Pregnant women with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 Babies of mothers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
<b>Purpose</b>	Identify current information about COVID-19 in pregnancy and after birth
<b>Outcome</b>	Women with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 receive clinical care according to the most current evidence available
<b>Exclusions</b>	Detailed infection control and prevention protocols and procedures (e.g. correct application of personal protective equipment) Management of pregnant women requiring intensive care

#### 3.3 Clinical questions

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

- What risk management and containment strategies are recommended for women during pregnancy and after birth of their baby?
- What usual/standard recommendations for maternity care should be amended or altered for women with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?
- What usual/standard recommendations for neonatal care should be amended or altered for babies whose mothers are suspected or confirmed COVID-19?



### 3.4 Search strategy

A search of the literature was conducted and repeated multiple times during March 2020. 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>

#### 3.4.1 Keywords

The following keywords were used in the basic search strategy: ((((((((((pregn\*) OR obstet\*) OR matern\*) OR birth) OR delivery) OR neonat\*) OR preterm)) OR antenat\*)) AND (((covid-19) OR sars-CoV-2) OR coronavirus))

Other keywords may have been used for specific aspects of the guideline.

### 3.5 Consultation

Major consultative and development processes occurred between 30 March 2020 and September 2020. These are outlined in Table 4.

Table 4. Major guideline development processes

Process	Activity
<b>Clinical lead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The nominated clinical lead was approved by HIU</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer participation was invited from a targeted group</li> </ul>
<b>Working party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initial fast-track development was undertaken with limited and targeted consultation with clinical experts</li> </ul>
<b>Statewide consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wider consultation with the broader clinical and consumer community was undertaken during development of Version 4 of this guideline, July–August 2020</li> </ul>

### 3.6 Endorsement

The guideline was endorsed by the:

- Queensland Clinical Guidelines Steering Committee in August 2020
- Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network [Queensland] in September 2020

### 3.7 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).

## 4 Levels of evidence

Levels of evidence have not been sought or identified due to emerging nature of the COVID-19 disease. All summary recommendations are based on expert consensus opinion at the time of publication.

### 4.1 Summary recommendations

Summary recommendations and levels of evidence are outlined in Table 5. Summary recommendations.

Table 5. Summary recommendations

Recommendations		Grading of evidence
1.	To limit the spread of COVID-19, follow current Queensland Health recommendations regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for COVID-19 testing</li> <li>Infection prevention and control measures (e.g. hand hygiene, social distancing, self-quarantine and self-isolation)</li> </ul>	Consensus
2.	Offer women consistent information about COVID-19 (as known at the time)	Consensus
3.	Routinely recommend mRNA COVID-19 vaccines at the earliest opportunity to women who are planning a pregnancy, are already pregnant or who are lactating	Consensus
4.	Offer women access to support for perinatal mental health during and after pregnancy	Consensus
5.	Support co-location of the well mother and baby during inpatient care and after discharge	Consensus
6.	Maintain a high index of suspicion for signs of neonatal sepsis	Consensus

## 5 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)

### 5.1 Guideline resources

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

- Flowchart: Triage and risk assessment of pregnant woman with confirmed or suspected COVID-19
- Flowchart: Baby of COVID-19 suspected or positive mother
- Flowchart: Assessment of inpatient woman
- Flowchart: GDM screening and testing when local risk of COVID-19 is elevated
- Flowchart: Nitrous oxide circuit for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 woman
- Modified schedules for low risk women during COVID-19
- Parent information: COVID-19 and breastfeeding
- Parent information: COVID-19 in pregnancy

### 5.2 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:

- Correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during care of women and their families with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Information sheets for women and their families requiring self-quarantine or self-isolation

### 5.3 Implementation measures

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

#### 5.3.1 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

#### 5.3.2 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

#### 5.3.3 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)

## 5.4 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 6. NSQHS Standard 1].

Table 6. 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

## 5.5 Clinical quality measures

Audit criteria and clinical quality measures have not yet been identified

## 5.6 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.

- Multiple research areas identified as evidence currently limited

## 5.7 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<sup>1</sup>

Table 7. NSQHS Criteria

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>
<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> 1.7 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

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
<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> 2.8 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 2.9 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer consultation was sought and obtained during the development of the guideline. Refer to the acknowledgement section of the guideline for details <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer information is developed to align with the guideline and included consumer involvement during development and review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumers are members of guideline working parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline is based on the best available evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guidelines and consumer information are endorsed by the QCG and Queensland Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network Steering Committees which includes consumer membership
<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> 4.1 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

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<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> 5.1 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> 5.3 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	☑ 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> ☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ Consumer information is developed for the guideline
<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> 6.1 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> 6.3 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> 6.4 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



NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 6: Communicating for safety (continued)</b>		
<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> 6.9 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
<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> 6.5 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	☑ 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> 6.7 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 6.8 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	☑ 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	☑ Evidence of compliance
<b>NSQHS Standard 8: Recognising and responding to acute deterioration</b>		
<b>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support recognition and response systems</b> Organisation-wide systems are used to support and promote detection and recognition of acute deterioration, and the response to patients whose condition acutely deteriorates.	<b>Integrating clinical governance</b> 8.1 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for recognising and responding to acute deterioration b. Managing risks associated with recognising and responding to acute deterioration c. Identifying training requirements for recognising and responding to acute deterioration <b>Partnering with consumers</b> 8.3 Clinicians use organisational processes from the Partnering with Consumers Standard when recognising and responding to acute deterioration to: a. Actively involve patients in their own care b. Meet the patient's information needs c. Share decision-making <b>Recognising acute deterioration</b> 8.4 The health service organisation has processes for clinicians to detect acute physiological deterioration that require clinicians to: a. Document individualised vital sign monitoring plans b. Monitor patients as required by their individualised monitoring plan c. Graphically document and track changes in agreed observations to detect acute deterioration over time, as appropriate for the patient	☑ The guideline is consistent with National Consensus statements recommendations ☑ The guideline recommends use of tools consistent with the principles of recognising and responding to clinical deterioration ☑ Consumer information is developed for the guideline

## References

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2020 March 25]. 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 2022 January 07]. Available from: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg>.