

Queensland Clinical Guidelines

Translating evidence into best clinical practice

Maternity and Neonatal **Clinical Guideline**

Guideline Supplement: Instrumental vaginal birth



Acknowledgement

The Department of Health respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Cultural Custodians of the lands, waters and seas across Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, while recognising the role of current and future leaders in shaping a better health system.

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1 Introduction

This document is a supplement to the Queensland Clinical Guideline (QCG) *Instrumental vaginal birth*. 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 process](#).

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
December 2018 <i>Statewide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network (QLD)</i>	MN24.49-V3-R29	First publication
September 2020	MN18.49-V2-R23	Amended: Post-intervention care: antibiotics publication of new evidence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FROM: No high-level evidence to support routine prophylactic use TO: Consider prophylactic use Added: Post-intervention care: baby care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use NEWT tool or similar Updated: references
April 2024 <i>Queensland Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network</i>	MN24.49-V3-R29	Peer review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitions and clinical standards Absolute effect by instrument To <i>indications and contraindications</i>: Maternal exhaustion and request for assistance (indication) To <i>instrument by type (vacuum or type)</i>: Inadequate analgesia (contraindication) To <i>post intervention care</i>: suggested alternative antibiotic if penicillin allergy/sensitivity Removed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of Queensland Clinical Guideline <i>Standard care</i>¹ Updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison of outcome by instrument Flow and formatting References
March 2025	MN24.49-V4-R29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended: Penicillin hypersensitivity: FROM specific antibiotic recommendations TO: If penicillin hypersensitivity, consult with an expert clinician as required and/or refer to Therapeutic Guidelines Updated: references and minor formatting

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 literature, 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 following clinician requests and was endorsed by the Queensland Clinical Guidelines Steering committee in 2017.

2.2 Scope

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

Table 2. Scope framework

Scope framework	
Population	Women with a live, cephalic fetus in the second stage of labour, who have indications for instrumental vaginal birth
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an evidence informed clinical guideline on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indications for instrumental vaginal birth Contraindications for instrumental vaginal birth Safety consideration during instrumental vaginal birth
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide identification and discussion about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women in second stage labour for whom instrumental vaginal birth may be appropriate Risks and benefits of instrumental vaginal birth Risks and benefits by type of instrument Best practice maternal and fetal care during instrumental vaginal birth and immediately postpartum
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine labour and postpartum care Management of fetal distress Perineal repair <p>Specific techniques/procedures for application and use of individual instruments</p>

2.3 Clinical questions

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

- What are the indications and contraindications for instrumental vaginal birth?
- What are the risk factors for unsuccessful instrumental vaginal birth?
- What are the risks and benefits of forceps versus vacuum?
- What factors influence the choice of instrument (vacuum or forceps) when instrumental vaginal birth is indicated?
- What are the principles of safe instrumental birth?
- What is considered best practice care prior to and during instrumental birth?
- What is considered best practice care following instrumental birth?

2.4 Search strategy

A search of the literature was conducted during October 2023–January 2024. A further search was conducted in February 2024. 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"> • This may include national and/or international guideline writers, professional organisations, government organisations, state based groups. • This assists the guideline writer to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The scope and breadth of what others have found useful for clinicians and informs the scope and clinical question development ○ Identify resources commonly found in guidelines such as flowcharts, audit criteria and levels of evidence ○ Identify common search and key terms ○ Identify common and key references
2.	Undertake a foundation search using key search terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a search using common search and key terms identified during Step 1 above • Search the following databases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PubMed ○ CINAHL ○ Medline ○ Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials ○ EBSCO ○ Embase • 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 • Save and document the search • Add other databases as relevant to the clinical area
3.	Develop search word list for each clinical question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This may require the development of clinical sub-questions beyond those identified in the initial scope. • 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 • Save and document the search strategy undertaken for each clinical question
4.	Other search strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search the reference lists of reports and articles for additional studies • Access other sources for relevant literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Known resource sites ○ Internet search engines ○ Relevant textbooks

2.4.1 Keywords

The following keywords were used in the basic search strategy: assisted vaginal birth, instrumental vaginal birth, vacuum, forceps, instrumental birth, sequential instrumentation, operative vaginal delivery, operative vaginal birth. Other keywords may have been used for specific aspects of the guideline.

2.5 Consultation

Major consultative and development processes occurred between January 2024 and February 2024.

Table 4 Major guideline development processes

Process	Activity
Original development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original consultative and development processes occurred between January 2018 and December 2018 This included formation of a working party and statewide consultation as per usual QCG process A survey of clinician opinion was also conducted
Decision for peer review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the guideline scope, clinical questions and current literature was undertaken in November 2023. Areas of clinical practice change were identified Clinical leads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the previous scope and version of the guideline Reviewed identified areas of clinical practice change Confirmed aspects of the guideline for update and new inclusions Reached consensus agreement that a peer review process was appropriate
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert clinicians and a consumer representative were identified by the clinical leads and invited to peer review the updated guideline in December 2023. All invited members accepted

2.6 Endorsement

The guideline was endorsed by the:

- Queensland Clinical Guidelines Steering Committee in March 2024
- Queensland Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network in April 2024

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.

EXAMPLE:

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

3 Levels of evidence

Summary recommendations were informed by:

- Review of literature
- Expertise and experience of clinical leads and working party
- Statewide consultation
- Established Queensland Clinical Guidelines development process

The levels of evidence identified by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) were used to inform the summary recommendations.

3.1 Summary recommendations.

Summary recommendations and levels of evidence are outlined in Table 5. Summary recommendations and Table 6. Levels of evidence and grade of recommendation.

Table 5. Summary recommendations

Recommendations		Strength of recommendation
1.	Provide information to women prior to the onset of labour about instrumental birth	Consensus
2.	Use standardised documentation to record the indications for the instrumental birth and details of assessments and the procedure	Consensus
3.	The evidence shows that performing an episiotomy in women having their first vaginal birth led to 24% fewer OASI when forceps were used and 16% fewer OASI when ventouse was used and therefore should be considered. ²	Evidence based recommendation
4.	Postnatal care following instrumental vaginal birth requires attention to thromboembolic prophylaxis, analgesia, voiding function, rehabilitation of the pelvic floor, and counselling regarding the index birth and future births. ²	Consensus-based recommendation
5.	If performed, a mediolateral episiotomy is recommended	Consensus
6.	Routinely offer woman who have an instrumental vaginal birth, an opportunity to discuss the indications for the instrumental birth, management of any complications and implications for future birth	Consensus
7.	For women who undergo assisted vaginal birth, consideration should be given to prophylactic antibiotics to reduce the risk of post-partum infection. ²	Grade A

Table 6. Levels of evidence and grade of recommendation

Levels of evidence		Recommendation
I	Evidence obtained from at least one properly designed randomized controlled trial.	Level A— Recommendations are based on good and consistent scientific evidence
II-1	Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomization.	
II-2	Evidence obtained from well-designed cohort or case-control analytic studies, preferably from more than one centre or research group	
II-3	Evidence obtained from multiple time series with or without the intervention. Dramatic results in uncontrolled experiments also could be regarded as this type of evidence.	Level B— Recommendations are based on limited or inconsistent scientific evidence
III-3	Opinions of respected authorities, based on clinical experience, descriptive studies, or reports of expert committees.	Level C— Recommendations are based primarily on consensus and expert opinion.
Consensus*	Opinions based on respected authorities, descriptive studies or reports of expert committees or clinical experience of the working party.	

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

4.1 Guideline resources

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

- Education resource: Instrumental vaginal birth
- Knowledge assessment: Instrumental vaginal birth
- Parent information: Instrumental vaginal birth

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:

- A procedure for the use of ultrasound assessment to determine fetal head station and position
- Use of standardised documentation during the instrumental vaginal birth procedure (e.g. Queensland Health instrumental vaginal birth pathway)

4.3 Implementation measures

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

4.3.1 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

4.3.2 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

4.3.3 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

4.4 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) Standards³ [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.	What proportion of instrumental births had station and position of the head documented at the time of instrument application	Principles of safe instrumental vaginal birth
2.	What proportion of women having instrumental vaginal birth had a standard documentation template commenced (e.g. instrumental vaginal birth pathway)	Principles of safe instrumental vaginal birth
3.	What is the proportion of women having instrumental vaginal birth who had sequential instrumentation	Principles of safe instrumental vaginal birth
4.	What is the proportion of women experiencing third or fourth degree perineal tear following instrumental vaginal birth	Post-intervention care
5.	What is the proportion of neonates experiencing neonatal morbidity following instrumental vaginal birth (e.g. subgaleal haemorrhage/brachial plexus injury/fracture/facial nerve palsy/cerebral haemorrhage, low Apgar <7 at 5 minutes and cord arterial pH <7.1)	Post-intervention care

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.

- Is there a maximum number of attempts or pulls that should be allowed before an instrumental procedure is abandoned?
- Can specific populations of women be identified who would benefit from episiotomy with an instrumental vaginal birth?

4.6 Safety and quality

In conjunction with the Queensland Clinical Guideline *Standard care*, implementation of this guideline provides evidence of compliance with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.³

Table 9. NSQHS

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 1: Clinical governance		
Patient safety and quality systems 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.	Diversity and high risk groups 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
Clinical performance and effectiveness The workforce has the right qualifications, skills and supervision to provide safe, high-quality health care to patients.	Evidence based care 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
	Performance management 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 http://www.health.qld.gov.au/gcg

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 1: Clinical governance		
Patient safety and quality systems 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.	Policies and procedures 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 Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers		
Health literacy Health service organisations communicate with consumers in a way that supports effective partnerships.	Communication that supports effective partnerships 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	☑ 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
Partnering with consumers in organisational design and governance Consumers are partners in the design and governance of the organisation.	Partnerships in healthcare governance planning, design, measurement and evaluation 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
NSQHS Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers		
Partnering with consumers in their own care Patients are partners in their own care to the extent that they choose	Healthcare rights and informed consent 2.4 The health service organisation ensures that its informed consent processes comply with legislation and best practice 2.5 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
	Shared decisions and planning care 2.6 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 2.7 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
NSQHS Standard 3: Infection prevention and control systems		
Clinical governance and quality improvement to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections, and support antimicrobial stewardship Systems are in place to support and promote prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, and improve antimicrobial stewardship.	Integrating clinical governance 3.1 The workforce uses the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when: a. Implementing policies and procedures for healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial stewardship b. Managing risks associated with healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial stewardship	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ Recommendations for use of antimicrobials are evidence based
Infection prevention and control systems Patients presenting with, or with risk factors for, infection or colonisation with an organism of local, national or global significance are identified promptly, and receive the necessary management and treatment.	Standard and transmission-based precautions 3.6 Clinicians assess infection risks and use transmission-based precautions based on the risk of transmission of infectious agents, and consider: a. Patients' risks, which are evaluated at referral, on admission or on presentation for care, and re-evaluated when clinically required during care	☑ 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
Antimicrobial stewardship Systems are implemented for safe and appropriate prescribing and use of antimicrobials as part of an antimicrobial stewardship program	Antimicrobial stewardship 3.15 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	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for care ☑ Recommendations for use of antimicrobials are evidence based ☑ If applicable, Australian therapeutic guidelines and resources were used to develop guideline recommendations

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 4: Medication safety		
Clinical governance and quality improvement to support medication management 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	Integrating clinical governance 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 Standard 5: Comprehensive care		
Clinical governance and quality improvement to support comprehensive care Systems are in place to support clinicians to deliver comprehensive care	Integrating clinical governance 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 Partnering with consumers 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	<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 http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qcg <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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 6: Communicating for safety		
Clinical governance and quality improvement to support effective communication Systems are in place for effective and coordinated communication that supports the delivery of continuous and safe care for patients.	Integrating clinical governance 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 Partnering with consumers 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 Organisational processes to support effective communication 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements for effective clinical communication by clinicians are identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for communication between clinicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for communication with patients, carers and families <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for discharge planning and follow –up care
Communication of critical information Systems to effectively communicate critical information and risks when they emerge or change are used to ensure safe patient care.	Communicating critical information 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements for effective clinical communication of critical information are identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements for escalation of care are identified

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 6: Communicating for safety (continued)		
Correct identification and procedure matching Systems to maintain the identity of the patient are used to ensure that the patient receives the care intended for them.	Correct identification and procedure matching 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements for safe and for correct patient identification are identified
Communicating at clinical handover Processes for structured clinical handover are used to effectively communicate about the health care of patients.	Clinical handover 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	<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	☑ Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 7: Blood management		
Clinical governance and quality improvement to support blood management 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.	Integrating clinical governance 7.1 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	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for use of blood products
Prescribing and clinical use of blood and blood products The clinical use of blood and blood products is appropriate, and strategies are used to reduce the risks associated with transfusion.	Optimising and conserving patients' own blood 7.4 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 Prescribing and administering blood and blood products 7.6 The health service organisation supports clinicians to prescribe and administer blood and blood products appropriately, in accordance with national guidelines and national criteria	☑ The guideline provides evidence-based and best practice recommendations for use of blood products ☑ The guideline is consistent with recommendations of national guidelines

NSQHS Criteria	Actions required	☑ Evidence of compliance
NSQHS Standard 8: Recognising and responding to acute deterioration		
<p>Clinical governance and quality improvement to support recognition and response systems</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>Integrating clinical governance</p> <p>8.1 Clinicians use the safety and quality systems from the Clinical Governance Standard when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Partnering with consumers</p> <p>8.3 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"> a. Actively involve patients in their own care b. Meet the patient's information needs c. Share decision-making <p>Recognising acute deterioration</p> <p>8.4 The health service organisation has processes for clinicians to detect acute physiological deterioration that require clinicians to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ 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

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