



SAFETY AND QUALITY Newsletter

PATIENT SAFETY AND CLINICAL QUALITY

Spring 2026

A Message from the Executive Director, Patient Safety and Clinical Quality (PSCQ)



Welcome to the latest edition of the Safety and Quality Newsletter.

In this edition, we explore the release of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC) National Model Clinical Governance Framework resources, which will no doubt be useful in supporting health services in meeting future requirements of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards version 3 as they evolve towards a focus on how data is used to improve and to provide quality assurance. In a similar vein, we are pleased to share news of the upcoming Festival of Innovation and Improvement. Whilst the in-person tickets have sold out, there remains opportunity to join us online and we look forward to seeing old friends and new faces. On the theme of sharing and learning, this edition also shares an update on the Quality Series program.

We continue our work on the regulatory front, progressing towards implementation of a new Assisted Reproductive Technology Act in mid-2027 and so are pleased to share key insights from the Reproductive Technology Council's 2025-26 Annual Report.

Nationally, this edition is an opportunity to showcase developments in antimicrobial stewardship through the WA Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Strategy and the Australian Passive Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Surveillance Dashboard and provide the latest updates from the ACSQHC.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening clinical governance, fostering innovation and continuous improvement, and supporting healthcare services to deliver safe, effective and person-centred care. We encourage you to explore the articles, share them with your networks and consider how the information may support improvement opportunities within your organisation.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving the safety and quality of care for all Western Australians.

Dr Audrey Koay
Executive Director, Patient Safety and Clinical Quality

National Model for Clinical Governance

The ACSQHC has launched the new **National Model for Clinical Governance**. The National Model provides a contemporary framework for Health Service Providers (HSPs) and emphasises the role of governing bodies, particularly the responsibilities of Boards and Executives in ensuring systems are in place to deliver high-quality care.

Coordinated by the Executive Office, Policies and Projects (EOPPs) and to support a system stewardship approach to clinical governance, PSCQ will host workshop in November for HSP Boards, Department and HSP executives.

More information on the model is available here: [National Model for Clinical Governance](#)

Quality Series

EOPPs delivers the **Quality Series**, a free monthly lunchtime webinar open to all healthcare staff and students interested in improving healthcare. The series promotes cross-disciplinary learning and encourages lateral thinking by sharing insights from a diverse range of professions and organisations.

Join us online to explore innovative approaches to healthcare challenges and emerging concepts in care delivery from local, national and international speakers. Recent topics have included applying improvement science to reduce clinical variation, clinical governance and human factors, falls prevention, sepsis care, healthcare sustainability, digital transformation, clinical quality registries, and reducing non-technical errors in surgery.

We aim to provide a broad range of speakers and perspectives, from international experts from organisations such as Harvard Medical School and the UK Sepsis Trust, to leading national agencies including the ACSQHC and the Australasian Institute of Clinical Governance, alongside presentations from local innovators showcasing work from across WA Health.

Sign up by emailing EOPP@health.wa.gov.au and please share this series with your colleagues, staff and students to help promote learning, improvement and innovation across the health system.

Festival of Innovation and Improvement

From idea to *impact* | Oct 23 2026

On Friday 23 October, up to 500 participants from across WA Health will come together at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre and online for the [2026 Festival of Innovation and Improvement](#).

This year's theme, From Idea to Impact, celebrates the power of innovation, improvement, and collaboration to transform great ideas into meaningful outcomes for patients, consumers, and our workforce.

The Festival will be officially opened by the Minister for Medical Research, highlighting the importance of innovation and continuous improvement in strengthening healthcare delivery and outcomes for Western Australians.

Featuring three dynamic streams, the Festival will bring together innovation and improvement leaders, keynote speakers and frontline staff to share practical insights, explore emerging ideas and showcase initiatives making a real difference across the health system. Attendees will have opportunities to connect with peers, participate in interactive workshops, and hear from expert panels and presenters driving change in healthcare.

The 2026 Festival builds on the success of the 2025 event, which saw the WA HSP Innovation Showcase collaborate with the inaugural Improvement in Healthcare Summit over two days.

The overwhelming interest in this year's event highlights its growing reputation as a flagship forum for innovation and improvement across WA Health. In-person registrations opened on 2 June and sold out in less than 48 hours, demonstrating strong demand from staff across the state. Virtual [registrations](#) remain open until 22 October.

Interest in presenting has been equally impressive, with 64 abstract submissions received. From these, 30 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations were selected for inclusion in the program. Together, these projects showcase the depth of talent, creativity, and commitment to continuous improvement across the WA Health system.



Keynote speakers for the Festival of Innovation and Improvement
Paul Anderson, Co-founder, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Orthocell Ltd and **Kate Bones**, Director and Improvement Advisor at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement





Department of
Health

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Beyond celebrating achievement, the Festival provides an important opportunity for teams across Health Service Providers and the broader health system to share knowledge, learn from one another, and build connections that can lead to future collaboration. By bringing together staff from diverse disciplines, services and locations, the event helps strengthen a culture of innovation and improvement across WA Health while supporting the spread and adoption of successful initiatives.

The Festival is also designed to extend its impact beyond the event itself. Following the Festival, all presentations and posters will be made available through the WA Improvement Exchange, a growing platform showcasing innovation and improvement initiatives from across the health system. [The WA Health Improvement Exchange](#) provides an ongoing opportunity for cross-team and cross-HSP engagement, learning and collaboration, enabling staff to access practical examples, share insights and connect with colleagues working on similar challenges and opportunities.

The Festival is not only a celebration of achievement, but also an opportunity to inspire the next generation of ideas that will improve care, services, and outcomes for Western Australians. Through the sharing of knowledge, experiences and practical solutions, the event continues to strengthen a culture of innovation and improvement across the health system.

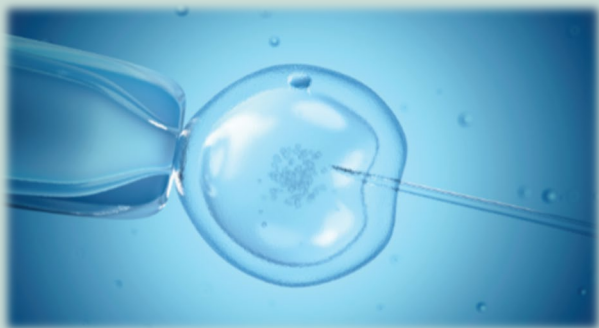
This year's event is supported by sponsorship from Rauland Australia, Hospital Products Australia and EIDO Healthcare.

Why attend:

- Hear from experts and thought leaders shaping healthcare improvement
- Explore the latest innovation, technologies, and ideas
- Earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points (certificates available)
- Connect with your community and potential collaborators
- Return to your workplace with fresh ideas, real-world case studies and renewed energy

[Register now](#)

Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Directorate Updates



Reproductive Technology Council’s 2025-2026 Annual Report

The Reproductive Technology Unit prepared the Reproductive Technology Council’s 2025-2026 Annual Report which was presented to the Minister for Health at the end of September. The Annual Report includes an overview of use of reproductive technology in the State and the operations of the Reproductive Technology Council in 2025-2026.

Health Roundtable (HRT) currently provides benchmarking, clinical engagement and quality and safety analytics services to a number of Health Service Providers (HSPs) through existing subscription arrangements. The HRT platform is available across North Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Health Services and is used to support performance monitoring, service planning and quality improvement initiatives.

In September, HRT delivered benchmarking masterclasses for clinicians, managers and analysts across WA Health. A dedicated Department of Health session provided an overview of the HRT analytics platform and demonstrated its capabilities through Finance and Costing, Surgical, and Hospital in the Home case studies from their optional program offerings. The sessions highlighted how benchmarking data can be used to identify performance variation, investigate quality and safety issues, and support service improvement initiatives.

The Department is currently exploring opportunities to join HRT in 2027 with full membership benefits and consolidate existing HSP contracts into a statewide procurement.



Antimicrobial Stewardship Updates

As part of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's work to support **Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS)** activities, the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) project contributes to the national surveillance program for antimicrobial use and resistance in human health. This includes [CARAlert](#) reporting (an alert system for Critical Antimicrobial Resistance) and Australian Passive AMR Surveillance ([APAS](#)).

The Commission has recently published the [APAS Data Explorer](#), an interactive data dashboard map that shows the distribution of key antimicrobial resistances across Australia. It has been updated to include data from 2020–2025 for all existing multidrug-resistant organisms and new combinations including:

- *Staphylococcus aureus*: resistance to clindamycin, erythromycin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: resistance to erythromycin or azithromycin, penicillin, and tetracycline or doxycycline complementary to the recently published report on [Resistance trends in Streptococcus pneumoniae – 2006 to 2025](#) (as below).

[World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#) is a global campaign to raise awareness and understanding of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and promotes best practices to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. It is held annually from 18 to 24 November. The theme for 2026 is “One Health, one action: Prevent AMR now.”



WA Health support the importance of Antimicrobial Stewardship through the [Patient Safety and Clinical Quality \(PSCQ\) Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030](#) and [PSCQ Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) Operational Plan 2026 – 2030](#). These initiatives support the strategic priorities relating to surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of antimicrobial use and resistance.

For more information, please contact DoH.MedicinesandTechnologyUnit@health.wa.gov.au or visit the [Medicines and Technology Unit intranet](#) page.



NATIONAL MEDICINES SYMPOSIUM 2026

[Register](#) now for this important event, which brings together clinicians, consumers, researchers and policymakers to explore strategies and interventions to improve the safe and quality use of medicines across the Australian healthcare system.

Date: 11 November 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm AEDT

Venue: Online, virtual event

Cost: Free

For more information visit the [ACSQHC website](#)

Public consultation will open soon on the draft national safety and quality standards for virtual care. Attend one of the live webinars to find out more.

More information on:
[Consultation on the draft national safety and quality standards for virtual care](#)

Webinar series: 19-23 October 2026

Recent publications



Are you getting a pregnancy ultrasound?

It's important to:

- follow the medical advice of your pre-natal care team
- have your pregnancy ultrasound conducted at an accredited practice
- know that 'souvenir scans' do not replace diagnostic ultrasounds.



Scan the QR code for more information

safetyandquality.gov.au/pregnancy-ultrasound

Raising consumer awareness of ultrasound in pregnancy

New resources are available to help consumers understand more about diagnostic and non-diagnostic ultrasounds during pregnancy – and empower patients to make informed decisions about their care.

The Commission co-designed the resources with consumers and medical professionals to ensure they are evidence-based and relevant to the needs and preferences of patients.

The new resources include a fact sheet for consumers on different types of pregnancy ultrasounds and a poster for display in practices (with QR code link to fact sheet).

How to use the resources:

Health professionals may find these resources useful during consultations where patients are considering screening, diagnostic testing, or other aspects of pregnancy care.

The fact sheet can complement clinical discussions and can be used as a take-home reference or as part of routine patient education.

Health professionals involved in pregnancy care are encouraged to review and download the new resources and incorporate them into their practice.

Updated Advisory AS18/11 on My Health Record

The Commission has updated [Advisory AS18/11: Providing Clinical Information to My Health Record](#).

This Advisory will help healthcare services to meet Actions 1.17 and 1.18 of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards on implementing the My Health Record system.

Comprehensive Care - Element 3: Risk screening and assessment

The Commission has identified a set of six elements for comprehensive care delivery, which represent different stages or processes that a patient may experience when clinical care is delivered.

Each element includes actions for consumers, clinicians and health service organisations. This [fact sheet](#) sets out actions for health service organisations in relation to element 3.