
Compliance and glossary

Compliance checklist

NSW annual reporting legislation requires all departments and statutory bodies to present to Parliament an annual report containing financial and non-financial information on their operational activities. Reporting requirements for specific public entities are contained in the legislation *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*, *Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2015*, *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2015*.

NSW Health's reporting obligations and disclosure requirements are met in this annual report at:

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Glossary

Activity Based Funding

Activity Based Funding is a management tool which helps plan and assess performance and clinical needs as part of the approach to the funding, purchasing and performance of health services. Activity Based Funding helps make public health funding more effective because health service management can allocate their share of available state and Commonwealth funding based on real levels of patient care. The Activity Based Funding tool allows public health planners, administrators, consumers and clinicians to see how and where taxpayer funding is being allocated.

Acute care

Short-term medical treatment, usually in a hospital, for patients with an acute illness or injury, or recovering from surgery. Acute illness/injury is one that is severe in its effect or approaching crisis point, for example acute appendicitis.

Antenatal

The period before birth.

Cardiovascular disease

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Chemotherapy

The treatment of disease by chemical agents, for example, the use of drugs to destroy cancer cells.

Chronic disease

The term applied to a diverse group of diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, and arthritis, that tend to be long-lasting and persistent in their symptoms or development. Although these features also apply to some communicable diseases (infections), the term chronic diseases is usually confined to non-communicable diseases.

Chronic heart failure

A complex clinical syndrome caused by an abnormality of cardiac structure or function. This impairs the ability of the heart to pump blood to meet the needs of other organs.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

A progressive and disabling condition that limits airflow in the lungs.

Clinical communities of practice

Clinical communities of practice network and share strategies, local solutions and issues with respect to pandemic preparedness identify, prioritise and escalate issues and solutions related to COVID-19 that require a statewide or system response review and provide expert clinical advice on guidelines, resources and other information

share ministry-approved advice and resources on the response to COVID-19 that can be circulated within all districts and networks.

Clinical governance

A term to describe a systematic approach to maintaining and improving the quality of patient care within a health system.

Collaborative Commissioning

A whole-of-system approach to incentivise local autonomy and accountability for delivering patient-centred and outcome-focused care in the community.

Communicable disease

Illnesses caused by micro-organisms and transmitted from an infected person or animal to another person or animal.

Commissioning for Better Value

A statewide project to shift focus of non-clinical and clinical support projects from outputs to outcomes.

ComPacks Program

Facilitates safe and early discharge of eligible patients from hospital by providing access to a short-term package of care designed to help them gain independence and prevent their readmission to hospital.

CORE values

The values that underpin all NSW Health activity: Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment.

COVID-19 2019 Novel coronavirus

COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV2, a new strain of coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans. It was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019, where it caused a large and ongoing outbreak. It has been declared a global pandemic. The COVID-19 virus is closely related to a bat coronavirus.

Delta variant

A 2020 variant of the COVID-19 virus. The Delta variant is estimated to spread more than twice as easily as the original virus.

Dementia

A general and worsening loss of brain power such as memory, understanding and reasoning.

Diabetes

Refers to a group of syndromes caused by a malfunction in the production and release of insulin by the pancreas, leading to a disturbance in blood glucose levels. Type 1 diabetes is characterised by the abrupt onset of symptoms, usually during childhood, and inadequate production of insulin, requiring regular injections to regulate insulin levels. Type 2 diabetes is characterised by gradual onset commonly between 50 and 60 years old, and is usually able to be regulated through dietary control.

e-learning

Education and training undertaken in electronic media, especially over the internet.

Elective surgery

There are several categories of elective surgery.

- Category 1: Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency.
- Category 2: Admission within 90 days desirable for a condition which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.
- Category 3: Admission within 365 days acceptable for a condition which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly, and which has little potential to become an emergency.

Electronic Medical Record (eMR)

An online record that tracks and details a patient's care during the time spent in hospital. It is a single database where patient details are entered once and then become accessible to all treating clinicians, with authorised access, anywhere in the hospital.

Enrolled nurse

An enrolled nurse is an associate to the registered nurse who demonstrates competence in the provision of patient-centred care as specified by the registering authority's licence to practise, educational preparation and context of care.

Go4Fun

NSW Health's overweight and obesity treatment and information program for children above a healthy weight involving children aged seven to 13 years and their parents. Go4Fun focuses on developing healthy eating habits, building self-confidence and getting children more active.

HealthNet

The clinical portal that gives clinicians secure and immediate access to recent patient medical histories from across NSW local health districts and My Health Record.

HealthOne

An integrated care initiative, where general practice and various community health services are made available in a single location to work together for comprehensive patient care.

Hepatitis A

An acute form of viral hepatitis transmitted by ingesting food or drink that is contaminated with faecal matter.

Hepatitis B

A blood-borne viral disease that can result in serious liver disease such as cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. Hepatitis B is usually transmitted by parenteral means (such as injection of an illicit drug, exposure to blood or blood products), through sexual contact, or from mother to baby around the time of birth.

Hepatitis C

A blood-borne viral disease that can result in serious liver disease such as cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. Hepatitis C is usually transmitted by parenteral means (such as injection of an illicit drug or exposure to blood or blood products), or from mother to baby around the time of birth.

Hospital in the Home

Delivers selected types of acute care to suitable patients at their home or clinic setting as an alternative to inpatient (hospital) care.

Hospital separation

Separation from a healthcare facility occurs any time a patient (or resident) leaves because of death, patient discharge, sign-out against medical advice, take own leave, or transfer.

Hypofractionated radiotherapy

An external beam radiotherapy using a smaller number of doses, each providing a higher amount of radiation than standard external beam radiotherapy.

ims+

A new and improved incident management system replacing current incident reporting systems across NSW Health for reporting clinical, work health safety and corporate incidents.

Integrated care

Statewide strategies to coordinate care and processes within the health system and with other service providers.

In vitro fertilisation (IVF)

In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is a complex series of procedures used to help with fertility or prevent genetic problems and assist with the conception of a child.

Junior medical officer

A medical graduate with at least two years' postgraduate experience, extending to a medical graduate working in a graduate training period of five to 10 years.

Key performance indicators

Indicators that measure agency effectiveness in achieving program objectives.

Leading Better Value Care

A statewide program to identify and scale evidence-based initiatives for specific conditions. It focuses on managing conditions in the most appropriate setting and is accelerating value-based healthcare in NSW.

Live Life Well @ School

A program that creates environments which enable children to eat healthily and be physically active.

Local health districts

Organisations which manage public hospitals and provide health services to communities within a specific geographic area. Eight local health districts cover the Sydney metropolitan region, and seven cover rural and regional NSW.

Multipurpose Services

A flexible service model for regional and rural communities, providing communities with access to a range of integrated health services such as acute care, subacute care, allied health, oral health, aged care, primary and community services.

Munch & Move

A community engagement and education program that aims to promote and encourage children's healthy eating and physical activity, as well as reduce small screen recreation. Munch & Move provides early childhood educators with resources and support to assist them in implementing fun, play-based approaches that support healthy eating and physical activity habits in young children.

My Health Learning

Statewide learning management system for NSW Health staff, managed by the Health Education and Training Institute.

My Health Record

The national digital health record system, providing healthcare providers, such as doctors and hospital staff, access to a patient's important health information from anywhere at any time.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

A national system of disability support focused on the individual needs and choices of people with disability, their families and their carers. Provides access to support services and funding support.

Neonate

An infant less than four weeks old.

NSW Patient Survey Program

A NSW Health program of multiple surveys to ask people across the state about their recent experience with the public healthcare system, supporting improvement across the system and within individual care organisations.

Nurse practitioner

A registered nurse educated and authorised to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role. The role includes assessment and management of clients using nursing knowledge and skills and may include the direct referral of patients to other healthcare professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations.

Omicron

In November 2021 B.1.1.529, known as the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, was named a variant of concern by WHO. In the first months of 2022, an Omicron subvariant called BA.2 began to spread even faster than other Omicron variants. BA.4 and BA.5 are thought to be even more transmissible.

Oncology

The study and treatment of cancer and tumours.

Osteoarthritis

Occurs when the cartilage between joints breaks down. This can cause chronic pain and stiffness, physical disability, functional impairment and social and vocational difficulties.

Osteoporosis

A chronic disease that reduces bone density and strength causing ongoing pain, reduced mobility, loss of function and a lower quality of life.

Out of Hospital Care packages

A short-term package of care (such as assistance with personal care, domestic assistance, transport and social support) provided to facilitate safe and early discharge of eligible patients from hospital.

PACER

Police Ambulance and Clinical Early Response program.

Palliative care

Care provided to achieve the best possible quality of life for patients with a progressive and far-advanced disease, with little or no prospect of cure.

Patient flow

The movement of patients through a healthcare facility from the point of admission to the point of discharge.

Patient Reported Measures

A NSW Health program giving patients and their carers the opportunity to provide direct feedback about their treatment and its results, informing improvement across the NSW public health system.

Patient Transport Service

A transport service provided for patients who require clinical monitoring or supervision during transport, but do not require an urgent ambulance response.

Pathology

The study and diagnosis of disease through the examination of organs, tissues, cells and bodily fluids.

Performance Framework

The NSW Health Performance Framework measures the performance expected of NSW Health organisations to achieve required levels of health improvement, service delivery and financial performance.

Perinatal

The period shortly before and after birth. The term generally describes the period between the 20th week of gestation and one to four weeks after birth.

Pillars

The five pillar organisations in NSW Health provide expertise in the development of new models of care, quality and safety initiatives, training and development and performance reporting which helps local health districts and networks provide the best possible care. The pillar organisations are: Agency for Clinical Innovation, Bureau of Health Information, Cancer Institute NSW, Clinical Excellence Commission, and Health Education and Training Institute.

Primary care

Provides the patient with a broad spectrum of care, both preventive and curative, over a certain period of time and coordinates all of the care the person receives.

Primary health networks

Primary health networks have been established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes.

QIDS

The Clinical Excellence Commission's Quality Improvement Data System (QIDS), which provides a single point of access to information and tools for the purpose of improving the quality and safety of health service delivery.

Radiotherapy

The study and discipline of treating malignant disease with radiation. The treatment is referred to as radiotherapy or radiation therapy.

REACH

A system that helps patients, their family and carers escalate concerns with staff about changes in a patient's condition. REACH – Recognise, Engage, Act, Call, Help is on its way – was developed by the Clinical Excellence Commission in collaboration with local health districts and consumers.

Safe Haven

Safe Havens are a drop-in alternative to the emergency department for people experiencing emotional and suicidal distress.

Specialty health networks

Two specialist networks operate across NSW with a focus on children's and paediatric services, and forensic mental health. A third network operates across the public health services provided by three Sydney facilities operated by St Vincent's Health Network.

Take own leave

When an admitted or non-admitted patient leaves a hospital or healthcare setting before their treating provider has authorised discharge.

Telehealth

The delivery of health services using different forms of communications technology, such as videoconferencing, giving access to healthcare services to people in rural and remote areas and to people as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tranche 1

Eight initiatives were selected for Tranche 1 in 2016, as part of the Leading Better Value Care program, with implementation commencing in 2017–18. The eight Tranche 1 initiatives are: osteoarthritis chronic care program, osteoporosis refracture prevention, chronic heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes mellitus, diabetic high risk foot services, falls in hospitals and renal supportive care.

Tranche 2

In 2017, local health districts nominated five more initiatives as part of Leading Better Value Care. These Tranche 2 initiatives commenced implementation in 2019–20 and are: hip fracture care, wound management, bronchiolitis, hypofractionated radiotherapy for breast cancer, and direct access colonoscopy.

Transfer of care

Measures the percentage of patients arriving at hospital by ambulance whose care is transferred from ambulance staff to the emergency department staff within 30 minutes of arrival.

Triage

An essential function of emergency departments where many patients may present at the same time. Triage aims to ensure that patients are treated in order of their clinical priority and that their treatment is timely.

Unwarranted clinical variation

Where patients with similar diagnoses are treated differently when there is no clinical reason for this to happen.

Value-based care

Is focused on generating value for patients by improving health outcomes, reducing costs and enabling healthcare access across a greater geographical area. In NSW, value-based healthcare means continually striving to deliver care that improves:

- health outcomes that matter to patients
- experiences of receiving care
- experiences of providing care
- effectiveness and efficiency of care.

Viral vector

Viral vectors are microscopic tools commonly used by molecular biologists to deliver healthy copies of genes to tissues and organs within patients or deliver the ability to correct the genetic error at its source. This process can be performed inside a living organism or in cell culture.

Virtual care

Virtual care, also known as telehealth, safely connects patients with health professionals to deliver care when and where it is needed. It complements the face-to-face care that patients are used to.

Visiting medical officer (VMO)

A medical practitioner in private practice who also provides medical services in a public hospital. VMOs are not hospital employees but are contracted by the local health district to provide specific medical services.