



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Aged Care Quality Agency**

**Communique 3**  
**Third Meeting of the Standards Guidance Reference Group**

- The Standards Guidance Reference Group (SGRG) met on 30 November. Key themes in relation to the Draft Guidance were discussed and ideas workshopped. The SGRG discussed critical questions relating to the development of guidance for Draft Standard 1 - Consumer Dignity and Choice; Draft Standard 4 - Services and Supports for Daily Living; Draft Standard 5 – Organisation’s Service Environment; Draft Standard 6 – Feedback and Complaints, Draft Standard 7 – Human Resources; and Draft Standard 8 – Organisational Governance.
- The Chair explained the next steps in the guidance development process. Draft guidance is being redrafted to better represent how the guidance will look in its finalised format. Draft guidance for at least one of the standards will be presented to the Group at the next meeting in the revised format.
- The SGRG Terms of Reference were finalised and the purpose of the SGRG has been broadened to include providing input to evaluation and monitoring activities, as appropriate.
- Consumer-focussed care was discussed in the context of guidance material for Draft Standard 4. SGRG members noted that it is important to recognise alternative methods of gaining feedback from all consumers, for example through assistive technology, or facilitating access to advocates.
- Discussion about guidance for Draft Standard 5 included the importance of implementing and monitoring a Diversity Strategy, as well as the significance of the physical environment and relationships to generate a sense of belonging.
- During discussion of guidance material for Draft Standard 8, antimicrobial stewardship was discussed in the context of working with the prescribing practices of general practitioners. A range of tools were shared to assist in the application of antimicrobial stewardship at a governance and practice level. Links to resources are provided below.
- Kay Newman, from the Department of Health, provided an update on progress in the development of the draft standards. It is anticipated that implementation of the new standards would be from 1 July 2018, subject to approval of the standards by Government and changes to aged care legislation for the new Standards to take effect. Work on piloting the draft standards has commenced and will continue until March 2018.
- At future meetings, there will be further exploration of the tensions between consumer choice and health requirements.

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Antimicrobial stewardship		
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare	Antimicrobial stewardship in hospitals	<a href="https://safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Antimicrobial-stewardship-in-Australian-Hospitals-2011.pdf">https://safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Antimicrobial-stewardship-in-Australian-Hospitals-2011.pdf</a>
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare	Antimicrobial prescribing and infections in Australian residential aged care facilities	<a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Antimicrobial-prescribing-and-infections-in-Australian-residential-aged-care-facilities.pdf">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Antimicrobial-prescribing-and-infections-in-Australian-residential-aged-care-facilities.pdf</a>
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, 2011	Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Hospitals	<a href="https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/book/">https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/healthcare-associated-infection/antimicrobial-stewardship/book/</a>
Australian Government	Antimicrobial Resistance	<a href="https://www.amr.gov.au/">https://www.amr.gov.au/</a>
Cochrane Australia	A very handi practice guide (non-drug interventions for infections)	<a href="http://australia.cochrane.org/news/very-handi-resource-putting-evidence-practice">http://australia.cochrane.org/news/very-handi-resource-putting-evidence-practice</a> Source: Cherie Hugo
Department of Health	Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) National Strategy	<a href="http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-amr.htm">http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-amr.htm</a>
Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria	Infection prevention through antimicrobial stewardship.	<a href="https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/infection-prevention/antimicrobial-stewardship-infect">https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/quality-safety-service/infection-prevention/antimicrobial-stewardship-infect</a>
Literature review: Lim et al 2015, Focus, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	Antibiotic use in residential aged care facilities	<a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/authorslist/l/ching-jou-lim/">https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/authorslist/l/ching-jou-lim/</a>
Royal Australian College of General	Antibiotic use in residential aged care facilities	<a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2015/april/antibiotic-use-in-residential-%E2%80%A8aged-care-facilities/">https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2015/april/antibiotic-use-in-residential-%E2%80%A8aged-care-facilities/</a>

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For more information see Australian Aged Care Quality Agency website [www.aacqa.gov.au](http://www.aacqa.gov.au)

Practitioners		
The Lancet	Note: this information is international and not representative of the Australian Context: Antimicrobial resistance in food production and messaging from the World Health Organisation.	<a href="http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32900-8/fulltext?elsca1=etoc">http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32900-8/fulltext?elsca1=etoc</a>
Thursky K and Bennett N, 2016 National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship ACIP Conference	Antimicrobial stewardship in residential aged care facilities – results of the first aged care national antimicrobial prescribing survey	<a href="http://2016.acipconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Antimicrobial-stewardship-in-Residential-Aged-Care-facilities.pdf">http://2016.acipconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Antimicrobial-stewardship-in-Residential-Aged-Care-facilities.pdf</a>
University of Melbourne	Antimicrobial stewardship in residential aged care facilities	<a href="http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/medicine-and-radiology-research/royal-melbourne-hospital/the-national-centre-for-antimicrobial-stewardship-ncas/antimicrobial-stewardship-ams-in-residential-aged-care-facilities">http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/medicine-and-radiology-research/royal-melbourne-hospital/the-national-centre-for-antimicrobial-stewardship-ncas/antimicrobial-stewardship-ams-in-residential-aged-care-facilities</a>
World Health Organisation	Antimicrobial resistance	<a href="http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/">http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/</a>