
Compliance and glossary

Compliance checklist

All reporting GSF agencies are required 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 *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*, the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2024* Treasurer's Directions and other legislation and policies.

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

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Glossary

Activity Based Funding (ABF)

Activity Based Funding is a management tool which helps allocate resources more equitably and effectively based on volume, cost and complexity of patient care. The Activity Based Funding tool provides advantages in allowing public health planners, administrators, consumers, and clinicians to more transparently observe and compare 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.

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

A chronic condition characterised by excessive levels of inattentive, hyperactive, and impulsive behaviour.

Antenatal

The period before birth.

Blood borne virus (BBV)

Viruses that are carried through blood and can be spread from one person to another. The most common BBVs are HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV).

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 obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

A progressive and disabling condition that limits airflow in the lungs. People with COPD experience increasing shortness of breath, a persistent cough with phlegm or mucus, and a limited ability to complete everyday activities due to poor exercise tolerance.

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.

Community managed organisations (CMO)

A key provider of mental health, community support, and disability support services to people with lived experience.

Continuing professional development (CPD) home

An organisation accredited by the Australian Medical Council to provide a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Home for medical practitioners. CPD Homes ensure doctors registered in their home meet their minimum CPD requirements.

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.

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.

Dried blood spot (DBS)

Refers to a 'self-sampling' test that is self-performed for HIV or hepatitis C.

e-cigarette

Battery operated devices that heat a liquid (also known as e-liquid) to produce a vapour that users inhale. E-cigarettes are also called 'e-cigs' or 'vapes'.

e-learning

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

healthdirect

A government-funded service that provides Australians with easy access to trusted, quality health information and advice online and over the phone.

Hepatitis C (Hep 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 (HITH)

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

Hyperemesis gravidarum (HG)

Severe nausea and vomiting in pregnancy lasting for more than a few days.

Hypofractionated radiotherapy

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

Integrated care

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

Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)

NSW Health's Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Scheme provides financial assistance towards travel and accommodation costs when patients need to travel more than 100km one way, or 200km in a week, for specialised medical treatment that is not available locally.

Junior medical officer (JMO)

A medical graduate with at least 2 years' postgraduate experience, extending to a medical graduate working in a graduate training period of five to 10 years.

Key performance indicators (KPI)

Indicators that measure agency effectiveness in achieving program objectives.

Leading Better Value Care (LBVC)

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.

Local health districts (LHD)

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.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a safe imaging technique. MRI uses a strong magnetic field, radiofrequency waves and a computer that produces detailed images of many parts of the body.

MidStart

The statewide recruitment process for registered nurses seeking employment as a midwifery student in a NSW public hospital.

My Health Learning

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

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.

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 (NP)

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.

Oncology

The study and treatment of cancer and tumours.

Out of Hospital Care packages (OHC)

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.

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 (PRMs)

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.

Photovoltaic

More commonly known as solar panels – power using devices that absorb energy from sunlight and convert it into electrical energy through semiconducting materials.

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 (PHNs)

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.

Radiotherapy

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

Safe Haven

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

Service level agreements (SLAs)

A service-level agreement (SLA) is a contract between a service provider and its customers that documents what services the provider will furnish.

Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR)

The Single Digital Patient Record system is a single digital platform that will provide fast, secure and easy statewide access to an integrated record of an individual's medical history in real-time. The platform will incorporate Patient Administration System, Electronic Medical Record and Laboratory Information Management System capabilities.

Surgical plume

A by-product from the use of devices when cutting, vaporizing or coagulating tissue during surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The damage to tissues creates a potentially hazardous by-product known as "plume". This plume may or may not be visible and can have an unpleasant odour. The visible plume is often referred to as a 'smoke' plume.

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.

Trauma-informed care

Understanding, recognising and responding to trauma based on knowledge and understanding of trauma, how it affects people's lives, their service needs as well as how clients might present to services.

It considers people's symptoms, responses and behaviours in the context of their past experiences, and emphasises physical, emotional and psychological safety for clients and staff.

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.

Venepuncture

The process of obtaining intravenous access – most commonly for the purpose of blood sampling.

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.

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