

## FACT SHEET 10: ASSESSMENT IN PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTICES AND PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES

### AHSSQA Scheme

The Commission is responsible under the National Health Reform Act 2011 for the formulation of standards relating to health care safety and quality matters and for formulating and coordinating the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme (the Scheme).

The Commission has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Scheme and produced a series of fact sheets to outline the changes to accreditation processes for health service organisations.

### NSQHS Standards (second edition)

The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards were developed by the Commission in collaboration with the Australian Government, states and territories, the private sector, clinical experts, patients and carers. The primary aims of the NSQHS Standards are to protect the public from harm and to improve the quality of health service provision. They provide a quality-assurance mechanism that tests whether relevant systems are in place to ensure expected standards of safety and quality are met.

Health service organisations will transition to the second edition of the NSQHS Standards from January 2019.

**This factsheet provides details of transitional arrangements for the second edition of the NSQHS Standards for public dental services and private dental practices.**

#### Public dental services

Under the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation (AHSSQA) Scheme, assessment to the NSQHS Standards is currently mandatory for the majority of public dental services. State and territory health departments have confirmed that these arrangements will remain in place for public dental services following the implementation of the NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.).

From 1 January 2019, public dental services for which assessment against the NSQHS Standards is mandatory, will be required to transition to the NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.).

Services that are unsure of their accreditation requirements should contact their governing body or state and territory health department. A list of departmental contacts is available on the NSQHS Standards microsite [here](#).



## Private dental practices

Assessment to the NSQHS Standards is currently voluntary for private dental practices. Private dental practices who voluntarily implement the NSQHS Standards will not transfer to the second edition in January 2019. These services will continue to be assessed against the first edition of NSQHS Standards.

These services should refer to the [Commission's website](#) for information on the first edition.

## Future resources

The Commission is developing a guide to support the implementation of the NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.) in non-acute health care services, including community and dental services.

The Commission is also developing a set of national safety and quality standards specifically for primary health care services. It is expected that these standards will be available for implementation from 2020. Public dental services and private dental practices will transition to the primary care standards once they are implemented.

## Further information

The NSQHS Standards (2nd ed.) and supporting resources are available at [nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://nationalstandards.safetyandquality.gov.au)

More information on the Commission is available from [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)

The Advice Centre provides support on implementing the NSQHS Standards for health service organisations, surveyors and accrediting agencies.

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