



## **Submission to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care: December 2011**

### **National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Guide for use in Hospitals**

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM – the College) welcomes the opportunity to review and provide comment on the draft *National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Guide for use in Hospitals*.

ACEM is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the training of emergency physicians and the maintenance of professional standards in emergency medicine in Australia and New Zealand. The College has a vital interest in the quality of emergency care provided to the community. The College strongly supports the implementation and use of safety and quality systems to improve health service provision in Australia, particularly with regards to improving patient safety and quality of care. The College's Quality Management Subcommittee has reviewed the *NSQHS Standards Guide for use in Hospitals* and provides the following comments:

The Guide is a very lengthy document and this impacts on its readability. The inclusion of an executive summary is an imperative to improve the usability of the document. An appropriately linked web-based or PDF hyperlinked document would facilitate its navigation enormously. A brief users' guide may also assist.

The Quality Management Subcommittee suggests that the Guide would benefit from greater clarity on the topics of credentialing, delineation of clinical privileges and scope of practice. The terms around credentialing and scope of practice are too general for practical application of the required actions (for example, see Actions 1.10.1 and 1.10.2). This area requires further definition and description and use of appropriate terminology.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission to Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care on the draft guide: *National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Guide for use in Hospitals*. If you require any clarification or related information, please do not hesitate to contact the ACEM Director of Policy and Research, Dr Andrew Gosbell (03 9320 0412 or [andrew.gosbell@acem.org.au](mailto:andrew.gosbell@acem.org.au)).

Kind regards

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