



Australian Government

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

# Infection prevention and control in a rights-based framework

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# Acknowledgement of Country

Artwork by Dreamtime Creative





# A rights based Aged Care Act

## Statement of Principles

- Guides how the aged care system works



## Statement of Rights

- Enshrined in law
- Promotes and upholds the rights of older people



## Provider registration

- New provider registration requirements
- 6 provider registration categories



# Aged Care Rules

The **Aged Care Rules 2025** contains the specific details about how the Aged Care Act is put into practice.

- They set out the requirements for providers and workers to ensure services are delivered in line with the Act's rights-based framework.
- The rules establish:
  - clear expectations for providers and workers
  - the rights of older people
  - a framework for accountability and continuous improvement.





# Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards

The **Quality Standards** have been strengthened under the new Act.

Each strengthened Quality Standard has:

- an **intent statement** to add context
- an **expectation statement** to outline what older people can expect
- an **outcome statement** which is enforceable in legislation
- **actions** that demonstrate how providers can meet the outcome.





# Strengthened Quality Standards guidance

Select all service categories  
that apply to your service



Does your service provide  
clinical care?



Select the role types you  
want to view



**Tailored guidance**



[www.agedcarequality.gov.au/strengthened-quality-standards](http://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/strengthened-quality-standards)



# Clinical governance

**Rights based approach puts every older person at the centre of their care**

**Be fully informed and make decisions about their care**

**Be treated fairly and choices respected**

**Receive care from workers with appropriate qualifications, skills and experience**

**Right mix of people in their governance body**



# Effective clinical governance

- Identify and manage clinical risks for older people to prevent harm.
- Deliver safe and quality care to older people.
- Improve the policies, processes and capability to deliver safe, quality clinical care.
- Lead to improved clinical outcomes to enhance older people's health, wellbeing and quality of life.





# Standard 5: Clinical care

**Outcome 5.1: Clinical governance outlines the role of the governing body to demonstrate strong clinical governance through actively managing and improving clinical care to individuals.**

I get the right clinical care for me.



I understand the clinical needs of the person I'm caring for.





# Standard 2: The organisation

Outcomes 2.4, 2.9 & 2.10 specifically support good infection, prevention & control, requiring providers to empower workers to do their jobs well.

I have confidence in my service provider.

I feel empowered to do my job well.





# Standard 4: The environment

## Outcome 4.2: Infection, Prevention and Control

I feel safe and supported where I live.

I create a safe and supportive environment.





# Standard 5: Clinical care

Outcome 5.2: Preventing and controlling infections in delivering clinical care services

I get the right clinical care for me.



I understand the clinical needs of the person I'm caring for.





# Our regulatory approach

- Rights-based, risk-led, proportionate
- Collaborates and partners with the aged care sector to get better outcomes for older people

We use educational and regulatory tools to build the sector's capability. Including:

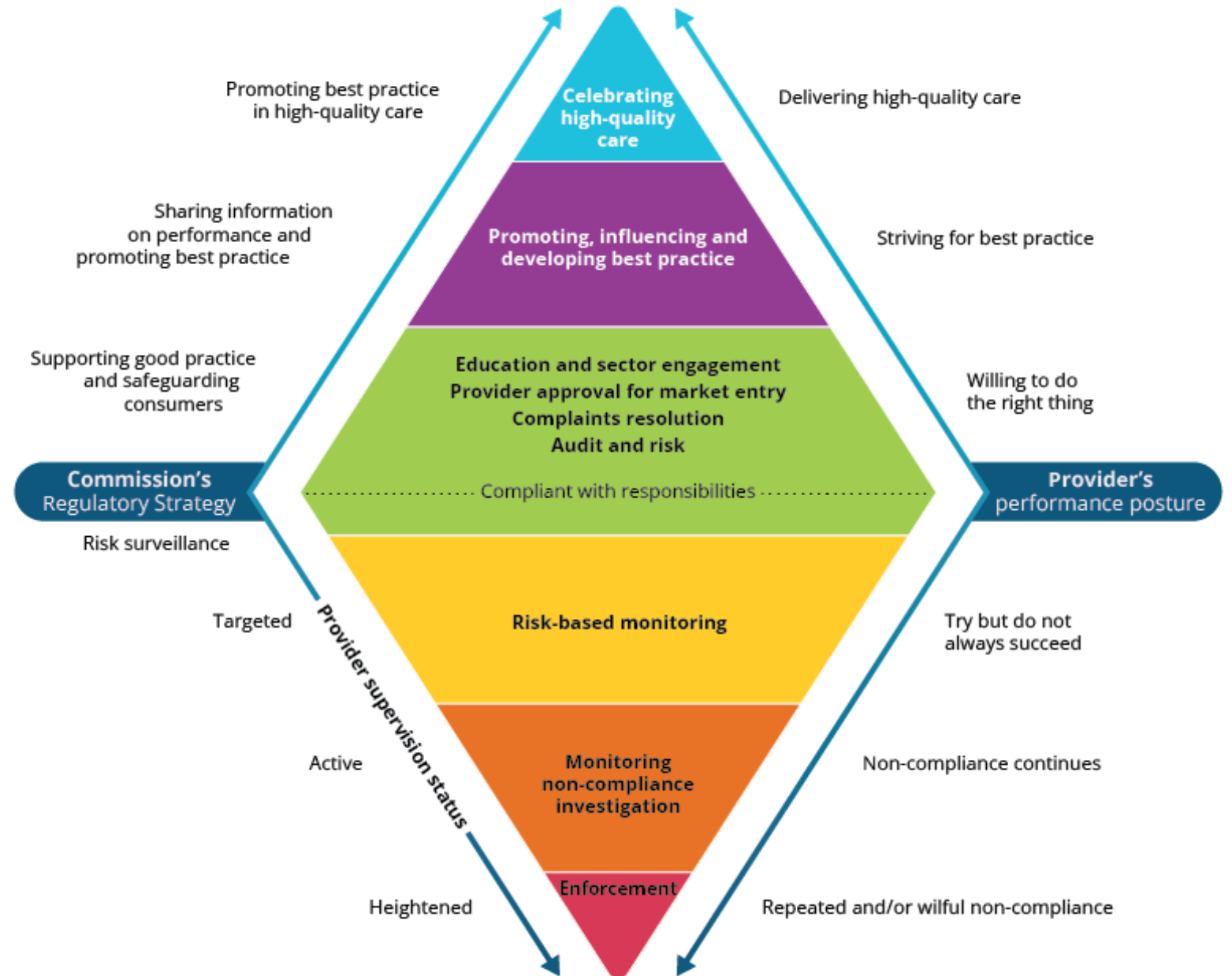
- **Educational tools** – webinars, resources, direct engagement with providers, Alis online learning platform, live learning sessions.
- **Regulatory tools** – risk-based monitoring, compliance actions, statutory and non-statutory actions, enforcement actions.



[agedcarequality.gov.au/resource-library/2025-26-regulatory-strategy](https://agedcarequality.gov.au/resource-library/2025-26-regulatory-strategy)



# Regulatory Diamond





# Our focus on vaccination

Provider obligations under the new  
Aged Care Act 2024

- provide access to vaccinations
- promote the benefits of vaccinations
- record keeping and reporting protocols (including vaccination records)
- staff, visitor, worker and volunteer communication processes
- visitor management processes during outbreaks.





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# Our focus on Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Older Australians are given more antimicrobials than the wider community.
- The strengthened Quality Standards have an increased focus on antimicrobial stewardship.
- Quality Standard 5, Outcome 5.2 – providers are required to implement an antimicrobial stewardship system that complies with contemporary, evidence-based practice and is relevant to the service context.



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AWARENESS WEEK

18-24 NOVEMBER



# Antimicrobial Stewardship – tools and resources



**alis**

**To Dip or Not to Dip**

**50%**  
Up to **half** people above the age of 65 years have asymptomatic bacteriuria.

**40%** men  
**50%** women  
**100%** People with bacteriuria in many care settings

**Asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB)**  
ASB isn't harmful to people but unnecessary antibiotic treatment can be. **1 in 3** people will get side-effects from antibiotics. Some will be at increased risk of developing antibiotic-resistant infections in the future.

**Over 65? Don't dip the urine!**  
The dipstick test and positive results are usually useless in detecting infection in the urine. **A positive dipstick test result cannot differentiate ASB from UTI.**

**Suspect a UTI?**  
Confirm it based on symptoms and signs of a UTI, and exclude other reasons. Follow a clinical pathway not a dipstick test result!

**symptoms** usually  
**don't dip**  
**urine** confirmation **signs**  
**dysuria** **fever**



## Antimicrobial Stewardship resources

[agedcarequality.gov.au/providers/clinical-governance/antimicrobial-stewardship/antimicrobial-stewardship-resources](https://agedcarequality.gov.au/providers/clinical-governance/antimicrobial-stewardship/antimicrobial-stewardship-resources)



## In summary

- Supporting aged care providers to provide adequate IPC and AMS systems is an important part of safeguarding the health, wellbeing and quality of life of older Australians receiving aged care services

**For more information  
visit our website**



**[www.agedcarequality.gov.au](http://www.agedcarequality.gov.au)**

# Thank you



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