



Cancer Institute NSW - Cancer Treatments Online - eviQ – Endorsed for use in Clinical Practice Policy

1. Background

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) seeks to provide direction and guidance to all staff through the availability of appropriate evidence based guidelines and protocols. It is envisaged that this information will assist in the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation in meeting current legislation and the key principles of quality improvement.

2. Policy Statement

Whole of WA health system policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all WA health system staff. To complement these documents, the WACHS has endorsed specific policies, guidelines and procedures covering a range of issues related to clinical practice. WA health system wide and WACHS policy documents are available via [HealthPoint](#).

In addition, the WACHS endorses a number of relevant evidence based guidelines and resources from other WA Health Service Providers and organisations external to the WA health system for use in clinical practice.

WACHS endorses the [Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Treatments Online – eviQ](#).

External sources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice provide a standard for clinical governance and service delivery, and provide a range of information and evidence based practice to support best practice by all staff for country health patients and clients.

When applied, the information contained in these guidelines must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

All WACHS clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

- within their registration status
- in accordance with the codes and guidelines approved by their relevant [National Board](#) supported by AHPRA
- within their scope of practice and competence
- within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF)
- within the context of practice that they are operating.

These guidelines do not indicate an exclusive course of action or serve as a definitive mode of patient care. Variations that take into account individual circumstances, clinical judgement, scope of professional practice and patient choice, may be appropriate dependent on the health care setting.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these guidelines, no guarantee can be given that the information is free from error or omission. Users are strongly recommended to confirm by way of independent sources, that the information contained within these guidelines and protocols is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

WACHS Policy documents are continuously being added to and reviewed and are the primary source of information for WACHS clinical staff. However, in the absence of an appropriate WACHS policy document, other sources must be accessed. The [Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Treatments Online – eviQ](#) is one of the external sources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice.

Please note the web-based electronic copy is the master copy for all guidelines, and protocols.

3. Definitions

Accountability	All staff are accountable for their own practice. Accountability is the state of being answerable for one’s decisions, actions or inactions. Accountability means that the clinician must be prepared to answer to others for decisions about clinical practice, including delegation decisions.
Clinician	A healthcare provider, trained as a health professional. Clinicians include registered and non-registered practitioners, or a team of health professionals providing health care who spend the majority of their time providing direct clinical care ¹ .
Competence	The combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, values, and abilities that underpin effective performance necessary for clinicians to provide services of a standard acceptable to patients, their profession and the WA Country Health Service.
Context of Practice	Context refers to the environment in which is the profession is practiced and is inclusive of: the characteristics of the patient; the complexity of care required; the type of health facility; services and resources provided and the physical setting; the amount of clinical support and/or supervision available, and access to other health care professionals.

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<p>Information Circulars</p>	<p>Contain information mandated by the Director General and/or by Legislation. They provide advice or guidance². Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Industrial Award variations · fee increases (gazetted under legislation) · advice re introduction of new legislation · training courses · public holidays
<p>Operational Directive</p>	<p>Operational Directives contain information that is mandated by the Director General and must be complied with². Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · application of industrial agreements and awards · Government policy directions · clinical protocols · incident reporting
<p>Scope of Clinical Practice</p>	<p>The scope of clinical practice is that in which clinicians are educated, authorised and competent to perform. The actual scope of practice of individual practitioners is influenced by the settings in which they practice, the health needs of people, the level of competence of the clinician and the policy requirements of WA Country Health Service and Department of Health, Western Australia.</p>

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 WACHS Executive Directors of Medical and Nursing and Midwifery Services, and the Chief Operating Officer are responsible for:

- acting as the principal endorsement authority for external organisations' clinical policy documents

4.2 WACHS Area and Regional Medical, Nurse, Mental Health, Aged Care and Population Health Directors are responsible for:

- participating in the review for appropriateness of external organisations' clinical policy and guideline documents for use by clinicians within the WACHS

4.3 All WACHS clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

- within their registration status
- within their scope of practice and competence
- within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF)
- within the context of practice that they are operating.

5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Employment Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (HSA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

6. Evaluation

The number of reportable clinical incidents or near misses relating to inappropriate care provided by clinicians.

This policy is to be reviewed in three years or sooner if required.

7. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards](#) (First edition 2012) - 1.7.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.11.1, 4.11.2

[National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards](#) (Second edition 2017) - 1.7a, 1.27a, 4.1a

8. References

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Second edition 2017](#).
2. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council: [A national framework for the development of decision-making tools for nursing and midwifery practice](#) 2007.

9. Acknowledgements

This policy builds on work previously undertaken by the WACHS Nursing Executive to provide access to appropriate evidence based guidelines to guide clinical practice in WACHS.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

Contact:	Nurse Practitioner Cancer Services (C.Henneker)		
Directorate:	Nursing and Midwifery Services	TRIM Record #	ED-CO-14-51665
Version:	3.00	Date Published:	11 April 2018

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