



Australian Government
Department of Health

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Ministerial Submission – Standard
MS19-001163 Version (1)
Date sent to MO:11/09/19



To: Minister Colbeck
cc: Minister Hunt

Subject: National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator Program - Publication of Data

Critical date: 27 September 2019. To provide feedback to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare by 1 October 2019 on the development of their reporting framework.

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Issues:

1. Since 2016, a voluntary National Aged Care Quality Indicator Program (the Program) has been in place for residential aged care providers for three clinical quality indicators: pressure injuries; unplanned weight loss and use of physical restraint.

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2. In a joint release, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, the then Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care announced on 10 February 2019 that a mandatory national aged care quality indicator program for all residential aged care providers would commence from 1 July 2019. The Government also committed to publishing the Program data by the end of 2019.
3. On 17 June 2019, you signed the *Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Quality Indicator Program) Principles 2019* (MS19-900145), making the collection and reporting of the three quality indicators mandatory for Commonwealth subsidised residential aged care providers.
4. The Department has engaged the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to undertake analysis of the data and to publish a national report on their GEN Aged Care Data website. The AIHW is an independent statutory agency that reports on capacity and activity in the aged care system focusing on the people, their care assessments and the services they use.
5. As a result of significant stakeholder concerns, the Department committed to consulting with the sector on the publication of quality indicator data (see 'Sensitivities'). The AIHW conducted a targeted round of consultation with the sector on the scope of what is to be published, summarised at Attachment A, which has informed this publication approach.
6. The AIHW has scheduled the release of the first quarter's mandatory quality indicator data on the GEN Aged Care Data website on Monday 16 December 2019. Data for both the quality indicators and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's report on Consumer Experience Reports (CERs) will appear on the GEN Aged Care Data website under a new topic on 'Quality in aged care'. The CER report is expected to be released on 9 December 2019. CERs are aimed at promoting consumer choice by capturing the consumer experience of the quality of care and services in aged care and would complement the aged care quality indicator data reporting.

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Proposed publication approach:

8. It is proposed that reporting of the quality indicator data remain at a high-level in the first year of the mandatory program to address stakeholder concerns regarding data maturity and the potential for perverse incentives. The data published during 2019–20 will be presented in a dashboard format as is used extensively on the GEN website.
9. Over time, increasingly detailed data will be published. Proceeding in a staged approach will support learning from the data, contributing to building a robust system over the longer term.
10. The proposed publication approach is:
 - Publish quarterly national and state and territory level participation statistics, across all aged care providers. A sector-wide measure of participation, published quarterly, would provide a public indication of the overall level of compliance and be a key indicator of the quality of the data.
 - Publish quarterly national and state and territory level summary statistics for each quality indicator.
 - Publish a quarterly Technical Appendix on data quality (noting that the content may vary but it would be a place to disclose any data issues evident and efforts to resolve them).
 - Progress to publication of limited QI disaggregations when data matures, giving priority to single-dimension dissection by remoteness, service size and organisation type.
11. The AIHW have noted that being a first release, no trend data will be available and there will be limited opportunity to draw other statistical messages.