



WACHS Clinical Support Resources Policy

1. Background

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) seeks to provide direction and guidance to all staff through the availability of evidence based clinical policy resources.

Under the *Health Services Act 2016*, the Director General issues binding policy frameworks for Health Service Providers (HSPs) (i.e. WACHS) to ensure service coordination and integration, and efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of health services across the WA health system. Policy frameworks contain mandatory requirements and supporting information that HSPs must comply with.

WACHS is responsible for the development of local policy that is consistent with the relevant policy frameworks. WA Department of Health (DOH) and WACHS policy documents are available via the DOH [HealthPoint Policies](#) intranet webpage.

2. Policy Statement

The WACHS endorses for use evidence based clinical support resources from other WA Health Services and external organisations in addition to clinical policy resources developed by WACHS clinicians.

Clinical support resources endorsed for use 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 consumers. When applied, the information must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

The resources 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 the resources, 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 is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

Endorsed resources are searchable via the [WACHS Policies HealthPoint webpage](#).

To facilitate time critical access, selected high use resources are also accessible via the WACHS [Clinical Support Resources](#) intranet webpage.

3. Definitions

Clinical support resources	Tools that can help clinicians to draw on available evidence when making clinical decisions. The tools take a number of formats. Some are explicitly designed to facilitate shared decision making (e.g. decision aids). Others provide some of the information needed for some components of the shared decision-making process (e.g. risk calculators, evidence summaries), or provide ways of initiating and structuring conversations about health decisions (e.g. communication frameworks, question prompt lists).
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4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 WACHS Executive Team members are responsible for:

- acting as the principal endorsing authority for clinical support resources within their area(s) of functional responsibility.

4.2 WACHS Regional Executives are responsible for:

- purchase costs of hard copy clinical support resources (where applicable)
- ensuring hard copy clinical support resources are kept up-to-date.

4.3 WACHS Clinical Advisory Groups / Networks / Executive Sponsors / Clinical Leads are responsible for:

- facilitating consultation with stakeholders
- identifying clinical support resources for endorsement for use in clinical practice by WACHS clinicians
- obtaining approval from the applicable WACHS Executive Team member
- determining the communication plan for informing clinicians of the available resource and facilitating that process following endorsement/publication.

4.4 WACHS Policy Unit is responsible for:

- Processes and responsibilities as per the WACHS Policy Development Policy
- Updating the Clinical Support Resources webpage.

4.5 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.

5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy document may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity 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. Records Management

All WACHS corporate records must be stored in the approved Electronic Documents and Records Management System.

[Records Management Policy](#)

7. Evaluation

The WACHS Clinical Support Resources Policy is to be reviewed five years from publication. Utilisation of the Clinical Support Resources intranet webpage is to be monitored by the WACHS Policy Unit in conjunction with WACHS Safety and Quality.

8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards](#)
Clinical Governance Standard: 1.27

9. Legislation

[Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA)

10. References

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. 2nd ed. . Sydney. ACSQHC, 2017.

11. Related Policy Documents

WACHS [Policy Development Policy](#)

WACHS [Policy Development Flowchart](#)

12. WA Health Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework](#)

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

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