



WACHS / Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Co-Developed Clinical Guidelines - Endorsed for Use in Kimberley 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 procedures. 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.

The 'Kimberley Protocols/Guidelines' were developed in order to standardise the screening and management of health conditions more prevalent in the Kimberley and recognising that the management of these conditions differs from standard management due to the extreme remoteness of the area. Their purpose is to enable care to be initiated by a range of health care professionals working within their own scope of practice when direct access to specialists is limited.

They have been developed by multidisciplinary teams of local health care professionals in consultation with relevant specialists based on local research findings, and established best practices adapted to local conditions. The guidelines are approved by the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum ([KAHPF](#)) and are an invaluable resource for health care professionals new to the area.

The Kimberley Standard Drug List ensures that the same essential medications are available to patients in even the most remote parts of the region. The list is updated annually by a team of pharmacists, generalists and specialists from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (KAMS) and WA Country Health Service.

2. Policy Statement

Whole of WA Health policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all WA Health 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 and WACHS policy documents are available via the [HealthPoint Policies](#) intranet site.

The WACHS endorses the co-developed WACHS/KAMS clinical guidelines listed in [Schedule 1](#) (available via the KAMS website) as evidence-based recommended practice for use by Kimberley Medical, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health staff.

The WACHS/KAMS co-developed clinical guidelines are developed as a collaborative undertaking between the WACHS Kimberley and KAMS. They are designed to support clinical staff to provide safe, high quality and standardised health care, which is consistent, equitable and accessible in all rural/remote centres within the Kimberley Region. The standardisation of care is especially important for mobile populations, such as those in the rural/remote areas of the Kimberley region.

The guidelines are intended to improve access to services due to increased identification of health problems, and to inform timely and appropriate referral.

The guidelines are intended to contribute significantly to 'Closing the Gap' of health inequalities faced by Aboriginal people in the region, improving access to quality health care closer to home, and ultimately to improve overall quality of life across the Kimberley region.

The implementation of these guidelines aims to ensure quality, consistent, evidenced-based service delivery according to the needs of the individual and the population.

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.

The information contained in these guidelines takes into account the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

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 procedures is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

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

3. Standards

National Safety and Quality Health Care Standards:

Standard 1 Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Service Organisations

- 1.7 Clinical Practice

Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers

- 2.2 Implementing Policies Procedure and Protocols for partnering with patients, carers and consumers
- 2.5 Partnering with consumers and/or carers to design the way care is delivered to better meet patient needs and preferences

National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards (Second edition 2017): 1.27, 2.11

Within Western Australia, the term Aboriginal is used in preference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Western Australia. No disrespect is intended to our Torres Strait Islander colleagues and community.

Printed or saved electronic copies of this policy document are considered uncontrolled.
Always source the current version from [WACHS HealthPoint Policies](#).

4. References

WACHS [Policy Development Policy](#)

[Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service website](#)

DoH [“You Matter: A guideline to support engagement with consumers, carers communities and clinicians in health”](#)

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. Related Policy Documents

WACHS [Consumer and Carer Engagement](#)

WACHS [Additional Resources for Use in Clinical Practice Guideline](#)

7. WA Health Policy Framework

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

8. Definitions

WACHS / KAMS co-developed clinical guidelines	The Chronic Disease, Child Health, Maternal Health and Sexual Health clinical guidelines endorsed by WACHS and published via the KAMS website
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9. Roles and Responsibilities

11.1 The **WACHS Executive Directors of Medical and Nursing and Midwifery Services, and the Chief Operating Officer Strategy and Reform** (for Allied Health) are responsible for acting as the principal endorsement authority for this policy

11.2 The **WACHS Kimberley Regional Medical Director** is responsible for ensuring each new or reviewed co-developed WACHS/KAMS guideline has been appropriately developed and endorsed by WACHS Kimberley Clinical Governance Committee and through the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum and relevant sub-committee.

11.3 The **WACHS Kimberley Regional Medical and Nursing and Midwifery Directors** are responsible for participating in the review for appropriateness of the co-developed WACHS/KAMS clinical guidelines for use by clinicians within the WACHS Kimberley.

11.4 **All WACHS Kimberley 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) and
- within the context of practice that they are operating.

10. Evaluation

The co-developed WACHS/KAMS clinical guidelines are to be subject to monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure the delivery of effective, culturally appropriate and efficient care and management throughout the region.

The evaluation of these guidelines and their use is to include:

- the number of reportable incidents or near misses relating to inappropriate care provided by clinicians
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- chart audits
- performance appraisals
- review of each individual guideline every two years by the relevant KAHPF Sub Committee, in succession.

Should new or updated National, WA Health or WACHS guidelines be developed that impact on the evidence base of a guideline, that guideline is to be reviewed accordingly.

Guidance may be sought from the KAHPF and/or WACHS Policy Unit.

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

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