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| Perioperative service capability framework |
| Health services factsheet |
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Contents

[Perioperative service capability framework](#_Toc151545129)

[Perioperative capability framework purpose](#_Toc151545130)

[Perioperative capability framework scope](#_Toc151545131)

[Determining perioperative capability levels](#_Toc151545132)

[Monitoring perioperative capability levels](#_Toc151545133)

[Improving perioperative services](#_Toc151545134)

[Inclusion of emergency surgery](#_Toc151545135)

[Surgery reform program](#_Toc151545136)

[Existing legislation, standards, or accreditation processes](#_Toc151545137)

[Different perioperative capability levels for adult and paediatric services](#_Toc151545138)

[Surgical termination of pregnancy](#_Toc151545139)

[Statewide designated perioperative clinical services](#_Toc151545140)

[Further information](#_Toc151545141)

### Perioperative service capability framework

The Perioperative service capability framework is a structured guideline for delivering optimal perioperative care in Victoria's health system.

It outlines the essential elements required for perioperative services to function effectively and categorises these services into six levels of capability.  The Perioperative capability framework achieves this through a cumulative design approach, systematically defining the requirements for workforce, infrastructure, equipment, clinical support services and clinical governance at each of the six levels.

### Perioperative capability framework purpose

The Perioperative service capability framework has been developed to:

* enable safe, high-quality perioperative care for patients by ensuring that services are provided in the right place and at the right time
* enhance transparency in health service perioperative activities and functions, enabling the department of health to fulfill its role as a system steward
* assist health services to make informed decisions regarding the resources, partnerships, and protocols needed to manage different levels of perioperative procedural and patient complexity
* support planning and development of perioperative services based on community needs.

### Perioperative capability framework scope

The Perioperative Capability Framework applies to planned perioperative services delivered across the spectrum of Victorian health services.

### Determining perioperative capability levels

Every two years, health service campuses will be required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire via an online platform. This will help the Department of Health to work with each health service campus to confirm their perioperative capability level.  The self-assessment questionnaire will be available from February 2024.  The Department of Health will provide further information and support closer to this time.

Once capability levels are assigned to health service campuses they will be published on the department’s website.

### Monitoring perioperative capability levels

As the system steward, the Department of Health is responsible for regular performance monitoring of public health services. The perioperative capability levels will be monitored on an ongoing basis in partnership with Safer Care Victoria, as part of routine performance conversations.

### Improving perioperative services

Capability frameworks aim to improve existing healthcare services rather than change them. The Perioperative service capability framework sets minimum standards and requirements for the delivery of high-quality safe perioperative care.

Healthcare services may need to make adjustments to meet the standards. These should be discussed and agreed with the department.

### Inclusion of emergency surgery

Emergency (unplanned) surgery to treat trauma or acute illness requires extra availability of staff (on-call rostering) and a workforce complement that can accommodate this. The volume of planned procedures that are delivered at a campus can impact the availability and scope of practice of clinicians who are available to manage emergency perioperative care. Therefore, descriptors for managing emergency procedures commence at higher-level services and, where possible, patients should be transported to those services to receive appropriate care.

In exceptional circumstances, where a patient may be at risk of serious harm if urgent treatment is not provided at a given campus, it is expected that the best available care is provided.

### Surgery reform program

This framework aligns with the Victorian Government's broader efforts, including the Planned Surgery Reform Blueprint, which seeks to improve planned perioperative health services by promoting greater access, safety and equitable outcomes.  The Perioperative capability framework supports the Surgery reforms’ pillars of change by:

* enhancing safe and high-quality perioperative care
* optimising health service efficiency with improved partnerships and system planning development
* strengthening system stewardship through increased transparency across the system.

If through the surgery reform program, a campus seeks to expand its complement of perioperative services, it should take into account the requirements of the capability framework.

### Existing legislation, standards, or accreditation processes

The framework does not replace or amend current legislation, mandatory standards, or accreditation processes. It assumes that health services provide care in accordance with the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

### Different perioperative capability levels for adult and paediatric services

At a given campus the perioperative capability levels may differ for adult and paediatric services.

The perioperative care needs for paediatric patients are different to adult patients. To determine levels, it is important to identify the required scope of healthcare, the workforce and clinical requirements for both adult and children’s services. For this reason, capability frameworks may establish separate capability levels for adult and children tailoring requirements to the specific needs of each group.

### Surgical termination of pregnancy

The framework assigns the appropriate levels for the provision of surgical termination of pregnancy with the guiding principles ensuring that the perioperative care needs of patients are met safely with respect, privacy and dignity. A policy guideline will be developed to further support and guide safe and quality termination services for women.

### Statewide designated perioperative clinical services

If your health service campus is a level 6 service, in addition to the expected perioperative services it may also offer statewide designated perioperative clinical services.

The scope of the Perioperative capability framework does not extend to the designation of highly specialised clinical services that have been agreed at a site level for state-wide service provision.  Rather, it relates to the minimum standard that is expected of all hospitals operating at a given capability level.

### Further information

More information about the Perioperative Capability Framework, including specific requirements for each capability level, is available on the Department of Health website.

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