



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Health – Canberra Health Services

Hearing: 20 February 2025

In relation to: Iatrogenic Injuries in Canberra Health Services

Question received: 24 February 2025

Answer Due: 03 March 2025

- 1) Does Canberra Health Services routinely track iatrogenic injuries (injuries induced inadvertently by doctors, treatments or diagnostic procedures)?
 - a) If so, what analysis is done on that reporting, in order to identify possible areas for practice improvement?
- 2) What is the rate of iatrogenic injury at Canberra's hospitals per 10,000 visits? As an alternative measure, how many deaths from preventable harm occurred in Canberra's hospitals in the last three years?

MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) Canberra Health Services (CHS) regularly monitors and reports hospital-acquired complications (HAC), that are based on national definitions, targets and methodology. CHS has systems in place to investigate, respond to and monitor all reported clinical incidents, which may include episodes of iatrogenic injury.
 - a) HACs are monitored at Network Clinical Governance and facility level clinical governance committees where quality improvement projects are identified for further improvement. CHS is currently undertaking work to focus on reduction of HACs.
- 2) Iatrogenic Injuries is not listed as one of the 16 agreed national high priority HACs. However, these types of injuries may be captured under the 16 classifications depending on how the injury occurred. The ACT Government is unable to provide a number specifically for Iatrogenic Injuries.

All unexpected deaths are reviewed by clinical specialty units. As a result of clinical incidents or unexpected deaths, recommendations for improvement are identified, implemented, and monitored. All unexpected inpatient deaths are sent to Morbidity and Mortality Quality Assurance Committees for review. In relevant circumstances, deaths may also be referred to the Coroner for investigation.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Stephen-Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

6 / 3 / 25

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith