
Appendix two – Audit methodology

NSW Health is the auditee, with a focus on the Ministry of Health and its pillar organisations including the Clinical Excellence Commission and HealthShare NSW; all 15 Local Health Districts and the Children’s Hospital Speciality Health Network.

The following are not auditees: SafeWork NSW; the State Insurance Regulatory Authority and iCare (the NSW Government agency managing insurance for injured health staff); and St Vincent’s Health Network.

This audit does not assess the management of injured hospital staff being supported outside of the workplace.

Methodology:

The following methods were used to source evidence for the performance audit:

Methods to assess health and safety during business as usual in hospital environments

- Assessment of Ministry of Health documents describing work health and safety data collections, NSW Health survey information, COVID-19 circulars, communication with the workforce, NSW Health web-based materials, NSW Health policies, regulations and laws governing the health and safety of nurses and junior doctors.
- Meetings with the Ministry of Health, the Clinical Excellence Commission, SHEOC members, the NSW AMA, and the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association.
- Interviews with 15 Local Health District Executive teams and the Sydney Children’s Hospital Specialty Health Network.
- Interviews with nurses and junior doctors from four selected Local Health Districts about health and safety during business as usual periods. Interviews were conducted with:
 - Nurses: 83 nurses from 13 hospitals including 14 nurse unit managers
 - Junior Doctors: 35 junior doctors from ten hospitals. (Four junior doctors were in their first year).

Methods to assess health and safety during COVID-19

- Assessment of Ministry of Health documents describing work health and safety data collections, COVID-19 circulars, Communications with the workforce, NSW Health web-based materials, NSW Health policies, regulations and laws governing pandemic preparations.
- Meetings with the Ministry of Health, the Clinical Excellence Commission, SHEOC members, HETI, HealthShare NSW.
- Interviews with 15 nurse managers from emergency departments focussed on COVID-19 at a selected hospital in each of the 15 Local Health Districts. Hospitals were selected by Local Health District executives on the basis that they were most likely to test and treat COVID-19 patients.
- Interviews with 15 nurse managers from intensive care units focussed on COVID-19 at a selected hospital in each of the 15 Local Health Districts. Hospitals were selected by Local Health District executives on the basis that they were most likely to test and treat COVID-19 patients.
- Interviews with 15 PPE stock managers focussed on COVID-19 across all of the 15 Local Health Districts.
- In-depth COVID-19 briefing sessions with three Local Health District executive teams