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MEDIA RELEASE

ACHS Releases New EQUIPNational Day Procedure Centres Standards

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) continues its tradition of being a leader in health care accreditation with the release of their new **EQUIPNational Day Procedure Centres Standards** specifically for Australian Day Procedure Centres.

The new Standards offer a program for quality and safety that extends beyond the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)'s new National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and encompasses all major components of a health care provider's assessment program.

The new program was available to commence 1 January 2013, in keeping with implementation of the new NSQHS Standards from that date.

Chief Executive of the ACHS, Mr Brian Johnston, said that ACHS was keen to offer its Day Procedure Centre members a robust program to meet current requirements.

"We are continuing the strong legacy of the ACHS Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) by providing an additional five standards derived from EQUIP5 Day Procedure Centres Standards," he said. "Together with the ACSQHC's ten standards they offer a comprehensive performance assessment program."

Currently up to 60% of Australian operative procedures are performed as day patient procedures. Day surgery is widely practiced in 240 freestanding Day Surgery Centres in Australia, as well as more than 320 private hospitals, with many large public hospitals also having Day Surgery units in place.*

Specific areas included in the **EQUIPNational Day Procedure Centres Standards** which build on the ten NSQHS Standards are: 'Service and Care Delivery', 'Workforce Planning and Management', 'Information Management', 'Organisational Systems' and 'Systems for Safety'.

"By adopting a wider range of standards, day procedure centres will have the opportunity to grow and expand their capabilities and maintain up-to-date performance strategies directed at assuring safety and quality in the delivery of services," Mr Johnston said.

ACHS consulted widely within the industry to ensure a thorough review of its existing knowledge, with careful consideration given to the selection of the new standards, as well as the range of criteria and actions that they incorporate.

*Quoted from: *'Profile of the Australian Day Hospital Association and the Day Surgery Institute'* Reviewed 2011

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