

Annual performance report: Healthcare in Focus 2015

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Healthcare in Focus 2015 is the sixth edition of our annual performance report where we look at how NSW performs in comparison with Australia and other states, but also other countries. It takes a broad perspective looking at various indicators that relate to how timely care is provided for patients, if the care that's provided is appropriate to their needs as well as identifying if it's making a difference for patients in terms of responding to their health problems.

This year's edition follows from previous reports and highlights areas where NSW is performing well, also providing opportunities to identify areas where it could improve.

Key findings

Overall, the report suggests that the population of NSW gets good value for the money invested, with no countries achieving better results at a lower cost. It also shows that the ratings of care provided and the functioning of the system have improved when we look at the last five years. However, NSW is mostly in the mid-range of countries internationally; neither at the forefront nor at the tail end when we look at a broad range of indicators.

Potential areas for improvement

The report also suggests that there are certain areas that could be improved. When we look at elective surgery, for example, we can see that wait times tend to be longer in NSW, as well as complications that tend to be higher compared to the range of high performing healthcare systems that we compare NSW with in the report.

In addition, when we look at certain procedures that are now increasingly recognised as being of a lesser value to patients and lesser benefit to patients, we can see for example, rates of (knee) arthroscopies for older people remain high and in the case of test and other diagnostic procedures there is a certain level of duplication still happening in the state. Finally, when we look at disparities between social groups, we can see that on a broad range of indicators people living in less advantaged areas tend to have lower results in terms of performance.

Conclusion

Healthcare in Focus 2015 provides a broad range of indicators to reflect on the performance of healthcare in NSW. We invite all of you to have a look at the report, look at the website and the complementary material that we have that reflects more precisely on specific indicators and also consult the At A Glance summary to have a broad understanding of how NSW performs when we compare it at the international level.

Bureau of Health Information

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