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KEY AREAS OF MEETING NATIONAL HEALTHCARE STANDARDS

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5 key areas of meeting national healthcare standards

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National healthcare standards are quality based systems that are designed to promote patient safety and quality of care when followed correctly.

National healthcare standards are a baseline set of guiding principles which all health and medical facilities should follow to enable the organisation, staff and consumers to interact in a safe manner.

All standards comprise of similar focus areas which are designed to suit the area of practice.

There are various standards for specific health settings, however knowledge in different healthcare standards will improve your practice gaining best practice principles from each standard.



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1-Knowing the healthcare standards specific to your setting.

There are a number of healthcare standards which are specific to different healthcare settings, however for some organisations it is not so clear when the healthcare you offer does not fit neatly into a box.

On the other hand, when you offer more than one type of health orientated service, you should also be aware of the additional service standards.

An example of this would be a GP clinic meeting RACGP who has a visiting psychologist-

It would be advisable to review the standards that the psychologist needs to meet.



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2- Promoting the standards within your health service.

This is twofold:

First, ensuring your clinical and non-clinical workforce, management and principles/owner understands the requirements of accreditation.

And, secondly, promoting accreditation to your consumers to ensure you portray the role of a safe and quality focused organisation.



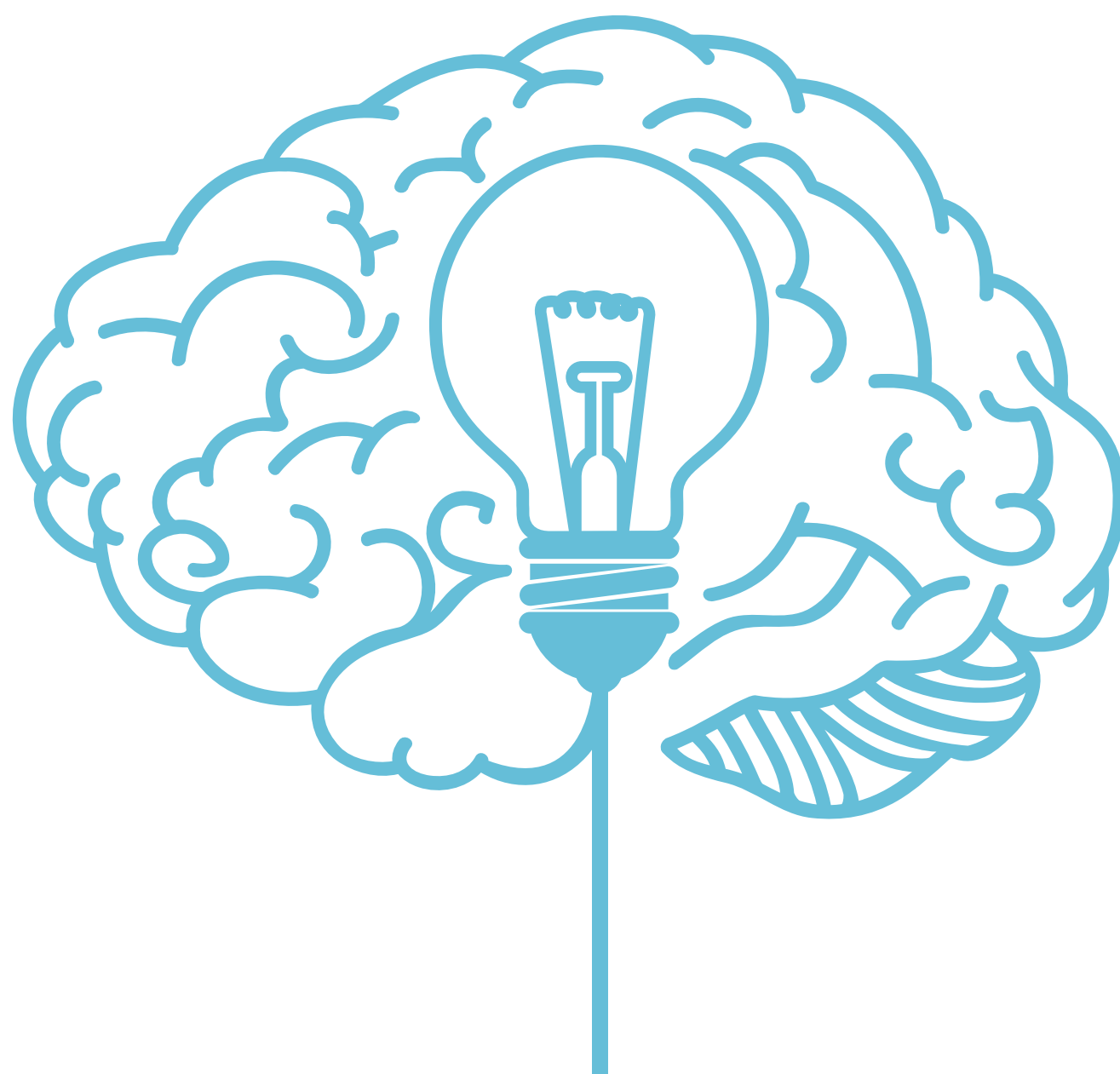
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3 – Incorporating other sets of standards within the clinical setting

Your healthcare service may offer a number of healthcare services as seen within a general practice of predominantly GP's with Psychologist and Physiotherapist visiting regularly.

The clinic will not only need to meet the RACGP standards, but also needs to be aware of the standards which oversee the other services.

This will ensure greater understanding of the additional services being offered, but cementing best practice processes for those services also.



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4 – Systems to meet standards.

Standards call for various mandatory reporting of feedback, incidents, audits and quality improvement activities just to name a few.

Ensuring you have the right reporting systems in place takes time.

Electronic quality management systems are now becoming common practice saving time and money.

A great example of a quality management system is Qualis



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5 – Meeting healthcare standards on a daily basis.

The ongoing effect of an effective quality management is training the staff in the system and the standards to ensure they all understand their roles and responsibilities in meeting your chosen set/s of standards.

Systems are vital to the ongoing success of your clinic.

