



## Strengthening safety statistics: how to make the hospital safety data we have more useful

9 November 2017

The Grattan Institute released a report today titled *Strengthening safety statistics: how to make the hospital safety data we have more useful*. The report, which recommends better use of data to improve safety in hospitals, looks at data on patient outcomes: routine data, clinical quality registry data, death audit data, incident reporting and investigation data, patient-reported experience measures, and patient-reported outcome measures.

The report also reviews different sources of information about safety of hospital care, and provides a background to a series of Grattan Institute reports that examine hospital safety in more depth.

Authors Grattan Institute Health Program Director Dr Stephen Duckett and University of Sydney Associate Professor Christine Jorm recommend that data registries need to share information more widely, and need to capture a greater proportion of care given.

RACS President Mr John Batten said that RACS supports the release of appropriate public reports on health system performance that are evidence based and that establish trust so that providers and their patients can be confident that reports accurately reflect health care delivery.

“RACS also believes that while data in itself is useful, it needs to have a quality improvement focus that provides lessons for all members of the health care team in order to improve patient safety. For example, this can be done through regular meetings to maintain ongoing surveillance of poor outcomes,” he said.

[Download the Grattan Institute report.](#)

### About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

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