
Check Again Network

Expression of Interest Information Pack

OFFICIAL

Do you want to be involved in promoting Victoria as a worldwide leader in penicillin allergy assessment and testing for hospitalised people? Consider joining the Check Again Network, a group of committed healthcare professionals collaborating to deliver best-practice care for people with a penicillin allergy.

Safer Care Victoria (SCV) is excited to announce this opportunity for healthcare services to participate in the Check Again Network. The Check Again Network aims to improve the assessment and testing of low-risk penicillin allergies for Victorians. Ensuring Victorians have access to the most appropriate antibiotics when they need them.

The Check Again Network is a collaboration between international Network of Antibiotic Allergy Nations (iNAAN) and will build on the successes of the Check Again Breakthrough Series Collaborative.

Who is eligible to apply?

- The Check Again Network is designed for teams that would like to implement or improve their penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling¹ program.
- Teams may be from public or privately funded Victorian healthcare services in metropolitan, rural, or regional Victoria.
- Participation is free, but healthcare service executive level support is required.

What will the Check Again Network accomplish?

By June 2026, more than 35% of public health services in Victoria will have implemented an inpatient penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling program, to ensure more Victorians have access to the safest and most appropriate antibiotics.

The Check Again Network will establish a community of healthcare leaders supporting each other to provide best-practice, evidence-based care, for patients with low-risk penicillin allergies.

What will teams get from the Check Again Network?

- Access to resources and education sessions (including special guest speakers) for your team.
- Teams will have the opportunity to build/strengthen their evidence for [Quality Statement 3 in the Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) Clinical Care Standards \(Adverse reactions to antimicrobials\)](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard-2020)
<<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard-2020>>
- Teams at hospitals with no existing penicillin allergy program can:
 - Access resources and support to build a local penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling program.
 - Learn from other hospitals who have successfully implemented a program.

¹ the removal of a penicillin allergy following comprehensive penicillin allergy assessment with or without penicillin allergy testing

- Access clinical experts in the area of penicillin allergies.
- Teams at hospitals with an existing penicillin allergy program can:
 - Continue to improve/refine local penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling programs.
 - Further spread and scale existing penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling programs.

How are we going to achieve this together?

The Check Again Network aims to spread penicillin allergy assessment/delabelling across Victorian health services, promote professional expertise, and enhance institutional knowledge.

Participating teams will share their local wins, challenges and progress with other participating healthcare services. Teams will receive advice from experts in penicillin allergies and other healthcare services, on how to implement a penicillin allergy program or improve their current penicillin allergy program (including education sessions with guest speakers). Additional education sessions and 1:1 coaching will be provided depending on the requirements of healthcare services.

The Check Again Network will include one in-person collaboration day per year, and 2 virtual Network meetings per year. There will also be access to an online collaboration platform to enable participants to learn and ask questions, at a time that suits them, and to share locally developed resources/protocols/research.

What is the required time commitment for the Check Again Network?

At a minimum it is expected that teams will attend the virtual meetings, relevant education sessions and collaboration days (as listed below). It is the responsibility of the healthcare service to discuss what resourcing they have available to commit to the Check Again Network locally, before applying. Ideally, each team will include a lived experience/consumer to help drive this work at a local level.

Table 1: The Check Again Network's anticipated dates for 2024-26:

Activity	Description
Team recruitment process	Healthcare services can apply to be involved in the Check Again Network at any time.
The Network's meetings (virtual) Kickstart Call: 11 June 2024 Meeting 1: 26 Nov 2024 Meeting 2: 18 March 2025 Meeting 3: 25 November 2025 Meeting 4: 17 March 2026	The Check Again Network meeting's will be an opportunity for sites to meet virtually, see project data, share wins, learnings, and opportunities.
Collaboration Days Day 1: 20 August 2024 Day 2: 22 July 2025 Day 3: 2 June 2026	Collaboration Days are face-to-face days in Melbourne, where teams come together with the steering committee to exchange ideas, share challenges and wins, and connect with other healthcare services.

Additional Optional Activities:

- Tailored coaching calls (virtual or on-person)
 - These will be available as needed or requested by teams.

- Tailed education sessions (virtual)
 - These will be available as needed or as requested by teams or the steering committee.

What does participation in the Check Again Network involve?

Participating teams will:

- Require executive support, at sign-up and throughout their involvement in the Check Again Network.
- Participate in in-person Collaboration Days and virtual meetings.
- Share lessons and experiences with other participating teams.
- Receive additional support and be prioritised to join [iNAAN](https://antibioticallergy.org.au/naan) <<https://antibioticallergy.org.au/naan>>.
- Where appropriate, engage consumers in the project team to ensure that the local penicillin allergy assessment and testing program is informed by lived experience.

(For more information on iNAAN, please contact the iNAAN Project Manager Elise Mitri: naan@austin.org.au)

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Check Again Network can be completed via this online EOI [form](https://forms.office.com/r/A2DFJpqMUZ) <<https://forms.office.com/r/A2DFJpqMUZ>>. We recommend the EOI is completed by the project key contact with the executive sponsor.

Additional questions and answers

Who is Safer Care Victoria?

Established in January 2017, Safer Care Victoria (SCV) is the state's healthcare quality and safety improvement agency. SCV:

- Specialises in healthcare improvement and co-design and innovation
- Leads results-oriented improvement collaboratives in priority areas, in partnership with health services to improve health outcomes for Victorians
- Ensures the consumer voice is central to our work
- Builds a sustainable network of improvement experts (both healthcare workers and lived experience experts) to enable continuous system improvement and innovation

We support health services to get better and to help keep Victorians safe.

Follow the links below to learn more about the work we do:

- [Safer Care Victoria](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/) <<https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/>>
- [Partnering in Healthcare Framework](https://www.bettersafercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-02/Partnering%20in%20healthcare%20framework%202019_WEB.pdf) <https://www.bettersafercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-02/Partnering%20in%20healthcare%20framework%202019_WEB.pdf>

What is the purpose of the Check Again Network?

The Check Again Network will build on the successes of the Check Again Breakthrough Series Collaborative, and support further spread and scale of the work to improve inpatient penicillin allergy assessment and testing, across Victorian healthcare services; ensuring that Victorians have access to the most appropriate antibiotics, when they need them.

The accurate assessment and documentation of penicillin allergies has been recognised by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH) Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Clinical Care Standards

as a key component of AMS programs. Quality Statement 3 in the [AMS Clinical Care Standards](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard-2020) <<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard-2020>> recommends processes be put in place by healthcare services to ensure the accurate assessment and documentation of antibiotic allergies to allow for optimal antimicrobial prescribing.

The Check Again Network is a collaboration between the international Network of Antibiotic Allergy Nations ([iNAAN](https://antibioticallergy.org.au/naan) <<https://antibioticallergy.org.au/naan>>) and SCV. The aim is that by June 2026, more than 35% of public health services in Victoria will have implemented an inpatient penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling program, to ensure more Victorians have access to the safest and most appropriate antibiotics.

Do I need to be part of iNAAN to be involved in the Check Again Network?

SCV is striving for Victoria to be a worldwide leader in penicillin allergy assessment and delabelling for inpatients. Therefore, Victorian teams associated with the Check Again Network will receive support to engage with iNAAN and contribute to this exciting Victorian led research program.

(For more information on iNAAN, please contact the iNAAN Project Manager Elise Mitri: naan@austin.org.au)

What are the data collection requirements for the Check Again Network?

As the Check Again Network is in partnership with iNAAN, de-identified, health service level data will be shared with SCV by iNAAN directly. This data will be shared routinely with healthcare services to help drive service improvement and collaboration. There is no additional data collection requirement by healthcare services.

Will I be remunerated for my time?

Healthcare services will not receive funding from SCV for joining the Check Again Network, however participating team members will be offered priority and free access to a tailored suite of quality improvement (QI) programs and Improvement Coaching throughout the life of the project. The capabilities developed through participation and access to these QI programs will enable teams to drive change initiatives in other areas of your healthcare service.

Can my healthcare service apply if it is situated in a regional or rural area?

Yes, regional, and rural healthcare services are encouraged to apply.

When do I start?

The initial phase of the Check Again Network is expected to continue until June 2026. Healthcare services can apply to be involved in the Network at any time.

Who do I contact if I would like more information?

For further information please contact Misha Devchand, Project Lead at misha.devchand@safercare.vic.gov.au

To receive this publication in an accessible format [email Safer Care Victoria](mailto:info@safercarevictoria.vic.gov.au)
<info@safercarevictoria.vic.gov.au>

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Australia, Safer Care Victoria, Aug 2025

ISBN 978-1-76131-838-2 (pdf/online/MS word)

Available at the [Safer Care Victoria website](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au) <https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au>

