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###  Capability frameworks

A capability framework is a structured set of guidelines and standards to ensure health services deliver the best quality care in the right place at the right time.

A capability framework covers the level and type of skills necessary for staff to deliver safe services, the type of equipment required, and other key components needed for clinical services to run efficiently.

### Purpose

Capability frameworks are designed to improve and support healthcare delivery. They help ensure that if you are a consumer, you receive safe and high-quality care in the right place.

They make healthcare services more transparent and support communication between clinicians and the consumers they are caring for.

Finally, they assist the government to plan for future service delivery as the population and community health and wellbeing needs change over time.

### Victorian health service capability frameworks

Frameworks that are already in place in Victoria and/or are currently being developed include:

* [The Maternity and Newborn capability frameworks](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/capability-frameworks-for-maternity-and-newborn-care-in-victoria).
* [The Palliative care capability frameworks](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/palliative-care-service-capability-framework).
* [The Perioperative service capability framework.](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/health-system-design-planning/perioperative-service-capability-framework-for-victoria)

A Cancer capability framework is also in development.

### Hospital categorisation

Hospitals are categorised into service levels through a self-assessment process. Each level defines the care, workforce and resources that are available at each location.  Once assessed, hospitals will work with the department of health to confirm their level and any additional services they can safely provide.

### Impact for consumers

If you are a consumer, you will be able to look up the capability levels of different hospitals and the types of care that is available for your specific care needs at each site.

If you have multiple health concerns that may make your care more complex, you may need to attend a site that is more suited to your needs, rather than the hospital closest to your home.

Once capability levels for hospitals have been confirmed they will be published on the department website and more information will be made available for consumers.

### More information

To learn more about Victoria’s capability frameworks you can explore the resources on the Department of Health website.  These resources will offer detailed insights into the frameworks, their levels of capability, and how they support the delivery of safe, high-quality care.

For further information on pregnancy and birth care options please visit [Pregnancy and birth care options - Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/pregnancy-and-birth-care-options).

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