

The new CQC single assessment framework

The CQC currently has three different assessment frameworks, one for each of the main care providers in the sector. This will change to a single assessment framework that applies to all health and social care providers – including the NHS, Independent Healthcare, Primary Medical Services, Adult Social Care, and local authorities and Integrated Care Systems.

What's staying the same?

- The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 and the Fundamental Standards (Regulations 9 to 20).
- All health and social care providers conducting regulated activities must make sure their staff receive relevant training for their roles regarding learning disabilities and autism.
- The Secretary of State (SofS) is required to produce a Code of Practice with regards to training on learning disability and autism.
- The five key questions (safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led).
- The four-point ratings scale (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate).

What's changing?

- The CQC will move away from separate 'monitor', 'inspect' and 'rate' steps.
- Information from a range of sources will be used to assess providers more frequently and in a more flexible way, without being driven by a previous rating.
- Ratings and the five key questions will stay, but the CQC will replace the KLOEs (Key Lines of Enquiry) with new quality statements to reduce duplication and allow for greater focus on these key areas.
- The CQC will be working in teams with a mix of expertise from different health and social care sectors to make sure they can share specialist skills and knowledge about all sectors.
- The CQC will have new powers to oversee local authorities and integrated care systems under the Health and Care Bill. It will be based on three key themes for assessment: leadership, integration, and quality and safety.

How to prepare ahead and stay up to date



Inform and Empower

Share emerging changes with your team, dispelling regulatory fears.



Collaborative Learning

Connect with social care peers for insightful knowledge exchange.



Stay Updated

Attend CQC webinars and industry events to enhance awareness and skills.



Align Processes

Review internal workflows to match Quality Statements and Evidence Categories.



Capture Success

Proactively document impactful data. CQC encourages digital transformation, explore going digital to gather care data with ease.



Nurture Partnerships

Foster strong ties with multi-agency allies as vital sources of evidence.

Multiple assessment frameworks	→	Single assessment frameworks
Ongoing monitoring and with inspections scheduled according to previous rating	→	Ongoing assessment of quality and risk
Evidence gathered during on-site inspection (single point in time)	→	Evidence gathered at multiple points in time (not just through inspection)
Judgements and ratings decisions made using ratings characteristics	→	Teams assign score to evidence
Narrative inspection report	→	Raitings updated, short narrative published

Want more CQC advice?

Contact our friendly team of care management experts to discuss how we can help.

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