

From: Peter Downie [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 26 March 2018 4:39 PM

To: medboardconsultation <medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>

Subject: Draft revised guidelines: Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship

I'm replying to the consultation for the Board re examinations using gloves when examining genitals. I'm a paediatric oncologist, and routine examination of boys with ALL and NHL mandates testicular examination to exclude leukaemic or lymphomatous infiltrate. I don't think it's absolutely necessary to perform this component of the examination wearing gloves - and in fact, it would be more difficult to do so, especially when feeling for subtle changes. Similarly, checking for undescended testes, examination of the newborn, and other aspects of paediatric care need to be considered with such a broad "blanket" statement. In long term follow-up, we also need to check testicular size and penile length when assessing pubertal development against the norm. In this circumstance, gloves is appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Downie

