

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Public consultation on Good medical practice  
**Date:** Wednesday, 1 August 2018 11:00:26 AM

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Dear Sirs and or Madams,  
I am concerned about proposed changes to the Doctor's Code of Conduct.

The changes include the following: -

"you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views... when your personal opinion differs".

If that had always been the case, then doctors would still be blood-letting and trepanning. (And why pick just on doctors - what if scientists were restricted like this? We'd all still have to acknowledge that the world is flat and/or the sun goes around the earth. And what about the first astronaut going up - he would see the earth is round but the generally accepted view is still that it's flat, so what does he do?)

This proposed change to the Code of Conduct will start a downward spiral in the effectiveness of medical practice. The doctor who goes along with the generally accepted view, knowing it to be erroneous but can't say anything, gives ineffective treatment, gets taken to court or sued for it, no longer practices.

There HAS to be healthy and open debate, which means freedom to express views, for the practice of medicine to progress.

And don't forget that, for a patient to be treated appropriately, there is an onus on the patient and/or their family to give the doctor all the relevant facts.

The original Code of Conduct requires that doctors respect their patients. There is no need to put any qualifications on this. To do so would imply that we no longer know what the word "respect" means.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.  
Catherine Zodins.

[REDACTED]