



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

RANZCR Submission to AHPRA Regarding Guidelines: Technology based patient consultations

The College has reviewed the AHPRA draft guideline for Technology based patient consultations and makes the following observations:

The guideline document is very generic in nature and may not sufficiently address what is different between the traditional face-to-face medical consultation and a technology based one. The approach taken would appear to be simply to state that the Code¹ must be adhered to when consultations are technology based, rather than identifying specific factors that apply when consultations are technology based. This may of course be the intent of the guideline.

The nature and effect of conducting a technology based consultation will differ amongst medical craft groups; it may be useful to acknowledge this within the guideline.

The advent of technology based consultations has the potential to change the nature and scope of traditional doctor-patient consultations. By way of example, it becomes feasible for a patient in a regional or rural location to attend their usual medical practitioner and together consult with a specialist in a metropolitan centre to assist in their local clinical management. The guideline does not explicitly take into account such a scenario.

For Radiologists, technology based consultations would allow a radiologist to be consulted by a medical practitioner in a regional or remote setting as to what imaging may be necessary and/or appropriate to assist in the patient's management, thereby assisting in the process of deciding whether a patient should travel to a regional or metropolitan centre to undergo such imaging when it is not available locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this draft guideline.

*eHealth Reference Group
Standards of Practice and Accreditation Committee
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¹ *Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for doctors in Australia*

