

5 February 2018

Dr Joanna Flynn AM
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
G.P.O. Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001
By email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Flynn AM

Re: 'Draft revised guidelines Sexual Boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship'

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) is the medical college responsible for the training, examination and professional development of ophthalmologists in Australia and New Zealand. We seek to improve eye health across Australia and New Zealand, as well as further afield, by providing best quality education, training and continuing professional development; by promoting eye health care and the work of ophthalmologists; and through collaboration with others involved in the delivery of eye health care.

In response to your request for feedback to the draft revised guidelines Sexual Boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship, RANZCO agrees with all the revisions made.

RANZCO suggests one amendment to the draft revised guidelines Sexual Boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship; Section 7.1 Use of observers.

Current wording:

Patients may find intimate examinations stressful and embarrassing. The definition of an intimate examination depends on the patient's perspective, which may be affected by cultural values and beliefs. Intimate examinations usually include examination of the breasts, genitalia or an internal examination. Doctors should be sensitive and respectful of a patient's views when discussing the reasons for an intimate examination and should ensure the patient's comfort, dignity and privacy when conducting an intimate examination.

Proposed amended wording:

Patients may find intimate examinations stressful and embarrassing. The definition of an intimate examination depends on the patient's perspective, which may be affected by cultural values and beliefs. ***It is best to check with a patient if your intended examination is considered intimate for them.*** Intimate examinations usually include examination of the breasts, genitalia or an internal examination. Doctors should be sensitive and respectful of a patient's views when discussing the reasons for an intimate examination and should ensure the patient's comfort, dignity and privacy when conducting an intimate examination.

Please contact RANZCO's General Manager for Membership Services, Mrs Alex Arancibia Garcia, if you require further information; [REDACTED]

Kind regards



Dr David Andrews
CEO