

1 August 2018

Executive Officer, Medical
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne 3001

By email: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Public consultation on *Good medical practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*

We would like to thank the Medical Board of Australia for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft revised code of conduct, *Good medical practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*. We support the revised code and find the content and structure helpful, clear, relevant and more workable than the current code.

As you may be aware, NPS MedicineWise is an independent, evidence based organisation primarily funded by the Department of Health to educate health professionals and consumers about the appropriate use of medicines and medical tests to improve the way these are prescribed and used in practice.

Choosing Wisely Australia®, facilitated by NPS MedicineWise, and led by Australia's medical colleges and societies, is encouraging a national conversation about the appropriate use of tests, treatments and procedures – including reducing use of tests that may be unnecessary and cause harm. Originating in the USA in 2012, Choosing Wisely is now a global movement with 20 countries now involved. With membership comprising 80% of Australia's specialist medical colleges and 25 champion Health Services driving engagement and implementation activities, Choosing Wisely Australia® is influencing a culture change around low value healthcare in Australia. <http://www.choosingwisely.org.au>

As the Advisory Group for Choosing Wisely, we feel there is a valuable opportunity to enhance the code by embedding the Choosing Wisely principles around professionalism and resource stewardship as is the case with The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation Physicians Charter in the USA <http://abimfoundation.org/what-we-do/physician-charter>.

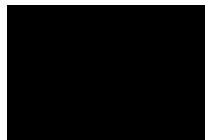
The section on “Wise use of healthcare resources” is an excellent addition. It could be expanded in Section 2: Professionalism to reflect the following:

- ▷ That in order to have “community trust”, it is essential that doctors are conscious of the need for equitable access and provision of healthcare, and to do this there needs to be a “commitment to a just distribution of finite resources” and not providing unnecessary services. The ABIM Foundation has included the principle of social justice (and the fair distribution of health care resources) as one of the three central principles of their physician charter.
- ▷ An increased recognition by doctors of not just the benefits of diagnosis and treatment but also the risks of potential harm of modern technology which have not been appropriately assessed; and
- ▷ That the individual context of the patient must always be front and centre. This extends to respect and acknowledgement of the impact on a patient's time and money.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback.

We are very happy to provide further clarification or discuss other ways that the work of Choosing Wisely might complement the Medical Board's work in developing professional standards. Please contact [REDACTED] External Relations and Policy Manager on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] with any questions or if you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely



Dr Matthew Anstey
MBBS FACEM FCICM MPH PGDipEcho
Chair, Advisory Group, Choosing Wisely Australia