

From: Devora
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Proposed Changes to Code of Conduct
Date: Friday, 3 August 2018 1:12:02 PM

To the Medical Board,

I write to express concern & opposition regarding the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Australian doctors.

It is everyone's right to decide what is best for their health, but this right should not impose or force doctors to act against their professional knowledge and conscience. It is good medical practice that all doctors provide a patient, whatever their cultural beliefs, with all the medical information, options, consequences and likely outcomes of any procedure or course of action to best enable the patient to make an informed decision. Doing so is not a breach or disrespect for another's culture. It is simply the presentation of objective medical facts and information to the patient which is the duty of care for every doctor to provide. Whatever the patient decides then is their choice but our doctors should not in any way be coerced to comply with any cultural practice or patient's demand if it is contrary to either their conscience and/or professional judgment.

Our doctors can be sensitive to another's culture and beliefs while at the same time, give the patient their full, unhindered professional medical opinion. The two are not in opposition. The Code of Conduct should uphold both and should not discourage, obstruct or constrict either the patient or the doctor from open honest respectful discussion as to what is the best care for that patient. In circumstances where the doctor differs in his professional judgement with the patient's view point, there should be provision for our doctors to relate that in a culturally sensitive way, without fear of reprimand for doing so. The reason we go to doctors is because they are trained to give independent sound medical advice. Yes, doctors, like all of us need to be cultural sensitive, but cultural sensitivity should not in any way influence or detract our doctors from giving that full independent clinical assessment & medical advice.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,

Devora

Melbourne, Australia.