

From: Richard Lennon
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on good medical practice
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Dear members of the Medical Board

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft good Medical Practice code of conduct

I am a dual qualified emergency Physician and pediatrician who also has a master of bioethics. So I have a special interest in ethics in general and medical codes of conduct specifically.

I have signed an Internet petition about this draft and I have added my signature to the excellent submission drafted by doctors Cigolini, Walsh and others. However I must say that to be perfectly frank neither the 2014 nor this draft code are sufficient to protect patients from unethical behaviour.

The problem is lack of any reference to objective morality. Historical codes of conduct have drawn clear lines between what is right and what is wrong. This made it more straightforward for patients practitioners and regulating authorities to identify, avoid, and penalize unethical behaviour. Examples include the hippocratic Oath and the Declaration of Geneva.

Saying that "Understanding that only the patient and/or their family can determine whether or not care is culturally safe and respectful." Is leaving the patient wide open to abuse. For instance a family member who would like to get an inheritance may decide that it is culturally safe and respectful not to treat their elderly relative or worse to recommend euthanasia ! However a doctor who understands the patient situation with compassion may provide the ethically correct treatment for that patient. Under the new draft code that doctor may be subject to disciplinary action.

Therefore I suggest a third option. That is a complete rewrite of the code so that it is clearly based upon the inherent inalienable dignity of the human person as outlined in the preamble to the universal Declaration of Human Rights.

My second preference is to follow the excellent rewrites in The Submission by doctors Cigolini and Walsh and others.

My third preference is to maintain the status quo.

Thank you for considering my submission I'm happy to be contacted for any clarification or other assistance

Yours sincerely Richard Lennon