

**From:** Veronica  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC CONSULATION ON GOOD MEDICAL PRACTICE  
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Dear MEDICAL BOARD

As a GP I request proposed changes to the 2014 Code of Conduct NOT be implemented

My particular concern is with Section 4.8. I am opposed to its implementation

Point 1 that only the patient ... can determine if care is safe and respectful creates an impossible standard as it denies any objective criteria for care

I would propose that the practitioner and the patient have freedom to discuss expectations for respectful care with each other and where there may be a divergence in this understanding negotiate alternative care provision

Point 4.2 respecting diverse beliefs identities etc should be recast if retained as acknowledging diverse beliefs etc.

People may have beliefs and identities harmful to their physical and mental well being. Last week I had a patient suffering domestic violence. In her culture it is wrong to seek outside assistance. I do not respect that belief when I see her bruises but I acknowledge it and offer assistance within the limitations of those beliefs

DR VERONICA O CONNELL

[REDACTED]  
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