

From: Peter Forrest [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 31 March 2018 11:16 PM
To: medboardconsultation <medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>
Subject: 'Draft revised guidelines: Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship'

Dear President of Medical Board,

I am writing to express my reservation to the Medical Board proposal -

“When conducting a physical examination, good medical practice involves:

- ***Using gloves when examining genitals or conducting internal examinations”***

Though this sentence may be focussed on adult intimate examinations, I feel that it is not necessary to include Newborn baby checks, and children under 5 years of age where there is concern about undescended testes in this recommendation. .

As a general Paediatrician, assessment of newborn babies is a large part of my practice.

Examination of the scrotum and testes are a routine part of my baby check. I normally do the baby check after hand washing, without gloves to feel the fontanelles, vibratory bruits over the praecordium and the apex beat in the chest, abdominal masses and femoral pulses and scrotum for the presence of testes and lower limb reflexes.

This examination would be made more difficult if gloves are worn. I don't feel that it is necessary to have to put on gloves to check that both testes are descended into the scrotum. This component of the examination takes a very short time and is not a concern for the child or the parents. In addition, checking a newborn infant or toddler for undescended testes, is not going to result in any sexual gratification to the examiner and wearing gloves may hamper the correct localisation of the testes.

I suggest that the Medical Board consider exempting male newborns and children under 5 years of age from this proposed recommendation,

Regards

Peter Forrest
Paediatrician

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