

7 February 2018

Dear Dr Flynn,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft revised guideline '*Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship*'.

The Canberra Region Medical Education Council (CRMEC) acknowledges the importance of the guideline and supports this revision. As an organisation focused on training standards for prevocational medical graduates, the CRMEC supports your valuable resource and guidance for practice.

Seeking consent is an important component of undertaking any physical examination. Under section 7 of the draft revised guideline, recommendations are made for items to complete prior to undertaking a physical examination, followed by recommendations on good medical practice during a physical examination.

The following items are listed to occur during the physical examination:

- obtaining the patient's permission if medical students or anyone else is to be present during an examination or consultation
- allowing a patient to bring a support person who may be a parent, carer, guardian, spouse, family member or friend.

Both these items may be better placed as points to consider prior to the physical examination, as these discussions should occur before an examination commences.

The increasing use of photography for clinical records, diagnostic purposes etc. may be within the scope of this guideline, particularly considering the increasing popularity of mobile phone cameras.

Regards,

