

**From:** Michele O'Connell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 March 2018 3:27 PM  
**To:** medboardconsultation <medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 'Draft revised guidelines: Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship'.

Dear AHPRA

I am writing on behalf of my consultant colleagues [REDACTED] in response to your call for input / consultation regarding the Draft revised guidelines: Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship. Our comment relates largely to the recommendation (also in the existing guidelines) in Section 7 that good medical practice involves.. 'using gloves when examining genitals...'.  
[REDACTED]

External genital examinations are considered part of standard physical examinations in newborns and infants and may also be required in older children for specific reasons. We suggest that for this cohort where parents will be present with their child and the exam is part of a general physical examination, that gloves may not always be routinely necessary and that clear communication as to the purpose of the external genital examination and adherence to other practices discussed in the guideline may suffice. There are situations where for example examination of a small / underdeveloped testis that has not descended to the scrotum can be more difficult when wearing gloves (resulting in prolonged examination) and hence allowing for some scope for variation in a paediatric setting would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Michele O'Connell  
On behalf of [REDACTED] A/Prof Matt Sabin, Prof George Werther, Prof Fergus Cameron, Prof Margaret Zacharin and Dr Peter Simm

**Dr Michele O'Connell,**

[REDACTED]