



Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons

Marie Warner
Chief Executive Officer
Dental Council
Level 11
Kordia House
109-125 Willis Street
Wellington 6011

10 October 2017

Dear Ms Warner,

Re: Dental Council consultation on the Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard

The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Dental Council New Zealand consultation on the Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard.

The RACDS promotes professional excellence in dentistry through the provision of evidence based dental education, professional development and examination. The RACDS provides a broad range of activities to enhance the development of dentists through individually mediated studies, examinations and continued professional development.

Q1. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed draft Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard?

Agree The proposed practice standard is comprehensive and details the minimum standards and expectations regarding health records and privacy matters as they relate to health information in a New Zealand practice setting.

Q2. Does any element of the draft Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard require clarification of further guidance?

The RACDS notes that working models are specifically excluded as being part of a patient record. In some situations, working models constitute important diagnostic, planning and treatment records that should be retained. It is suggested that the exclusion of working models as a health record be 'qualified' with a description of the types of working models that should be retained. The qualifying statement could be: *Working models which include information only available on/in the models (eg. diagnostic wax-ups) should be retained.*

The introductory comments to this practice standard note that, under Section 23 of the Privacy Act, health agencies are to have at least one person acting as a “privacy officer”. The requirement for dental practices to have a ‘privacy officer’ is not included in the body of the draft practice standard. It is anticipated that practitioners will use this practice standard as a resource and as such it is suggested that the requirement for practices to have a privacy officer (along with guidance notes regarding the role of a privacy officer) be included in the body of the practice standard.

Standard 13. Regarding the disclosure of health information. It would be helpful if the guidance notes included a definition of who can act as a person’s ‘representative’ in the context of disclosure of health information.

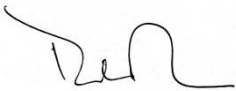
Q3. Are there areas that you consider important that have not been covered in the draft Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard?

No The draft practice standard is comprehensive in its scope.

Q4. Do you have any further comments on the proposed Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard?

The maintenance of detailed contemporaneous health information, and ensuring the privacy of this information, are important legal, ethical and professional responsibilities. The draft Patient records and privacy of health information practice standard is a practical, comprehensive standard which clearly outlines practitioner responsibilities.

Kind regards



Dr Patrick Russo
President