

29 September 2021

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Level 5, 255 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000
via email: ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Sepsis Clinical Care Standard Working Group,

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) for the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation on the *Draft Sepsis Clinical Care Standard*.

Relevant RACGP guidelines

The [RACGP aged care clinical guide](#) (the Silver book – Part A) provides guidelines for General Practitioners (GPs) regarding infection and sepsis in the residential aged care setting, highlighting the key features and when to refer.

Intended audience

The draft Standards appear to be primarily focused on the hospital setting. The RACGP recommends including this in the title and clarifying the intended audience for the Standard. If the draft Standard is intended for implementation broadly across the health care sector, we recommend other settings, such as primary care and residential aged care facilities are specifically addressed.

Antimicrobial resistance

The RACGP supports the primacy of patient safety and endorses interventions which prevent antimicrobial resistance (AMR), whilst minimising harm, morbidity and mortality from infectious disease¹. The Standard should highlight the importance of responsible antibiotic prescribing, taking AMR into consideration, to ensure ongoing effectiveness of antibiotics.

Sepsis presentation in general practice

The unique challenges faced by primary care in the identification of sepsis should be acknowledged. Cases usually present to general practice with undifferentiated symptoms, with signs that are subtle and atypical, particularly in older people². Seeing patients at the very early stage of sepsis makes identification, early treatment, and referral particularly challenging within the primary care setting.

The RACGP thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide comment on this consultation. For any enquiries regarding our response, please contact Stephan Groombridge, e-health and Quality Care Manager on 03 8699 0544 or stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Karen Price
President

1. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Antimicrobial Stewardship. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2017. Available at: <https://www.racgp.org.au/advocacy/position-statements/view-all-position-statements/health-systems-and-environmental/antimicrobial-stewardship> [accessed 22 September 2021].
2. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. RACGP aged care clinical guide (Silver Book). 5th edn. East Melbourne, Vic: RACGP, 2019.