

11 October 2023

Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Flemington Road,
Parkville VIC 3052
Via email: crenewbornmedicine@mcri.edu.au

Dear Guideline secretariat

Re: Draft Guideline for growth, health and developmental follow-up care for young children born very preterm

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation on the draft *Guideline for growth, health and developmental follow-up care for young children born very preterm*.

General Practitioners (GPs) are the first point of contact for families seeking healthcare and are uniquely placed to form an early social relationship with the child and their family and/or carer. As such, a person's GP is central to providing comprehensive health care across various ages, and life stages, and will play a key role in ensuring children born very preterm continue to receive appropriate follow-up care.

It is important that the GP's role in this support and in facilitating shared care arrangements is clearly articulated in the guideline. Similarly, the importance of communication and coordination post-discharge needs to be acknowledged throughout the guideline. The RACGP's [Shared Care Model between GP and non-GP specialists for complex chronic conditions position statement](#) provides more information on the importance of having good shared-care models.

The Guideline would also benefit from the target audience being clearly identified at the beginning of the document.

Recommendation:

The guideline clearly articulates the role of the GP in supporting the infant and family and facilitating shared care arrangements for provision of structured follow-up care, consistent with the RACGP's Shared Care Model position statement referenced above.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a response. For any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, Practice management, Standards and Quality Care on 03 8699 0544 or stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nicole Higgins
RACGP President