

18 June 2021

Mr Steve Waller  
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care  
Level 5, 255 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: [steve.waller@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:steve.waller@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Dear Mr Waller,

**Re: The National Opioid Analgesic Stewardship Program – Discussion Paper**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the National Opioid Analgesic Stewardship Program discussion paper.

General practice is at the forefront of healthcare in Australia and general practitioners (GPs) work collaboratively with other health practitioners to safely prescribe opioids. The RACGP agrees the proposed program should provide more stewardship in the hospital sector and ensure routine communication with GPs on individualised patient plans.

The discussion paper refers to Canadian recommendations, however, we recommend you refer to Australian guidelines. The RACGP's [Prescribing drugs of dependence in general practice part C1: opioids](#) were developed largely in response to increasing community and clinical concerns about the use and safety of opioids. In particular, the [clinical governance chapter](#) in part C1 contains useful information about:

- Managing patients prescribed opioid therapy who see multiple providers
- Clinical handover of patients using opioid therapy to general practice

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the discussion paper. For any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact Stephan Groombridge, eHealth and Quality Care Manager on 03 8699 0544 or [stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au](mailto:stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au).

Yours sincerely



**Dr Karen Price**  
President