

23 June 2021

Jonathan Davey
Senior Policy Analyst
National Transport Commission (NTC)
Level 3, 600 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 300
Via email: jdavey@ntc.gov.au

Dear Mr Davey,

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the National Transport Commission (NTC) for the opportunity to provide comment on the *Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) review*. We provide the following comments on the draft guideline for your consideration.

1. Guideline format

1.1 A concise summary document

The RACGP recommends inclusion of a concise summary of changes clearly outlining the 'old' and 'new' standards for the new edition. This could accompany the longer [Reviewing Assessing Fitness to Drive Summary of changes](#). A succinct summary would assist general practitioners (GPs) in easily accessing information and should include:

- links to the appropriate section in the document
- regular updates of any changes made in between editions.

1.2 Web-based availability

The RACGP recommends the 2021 guidelines be available in an easy-to-navigate, mobile-friendly version, in addition to the HTML version and the downloadable PDF.

2. Diabetes mellitus

Conditions such as post diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and hyperglycaemic hyperosmolar coma (as a result of severe hyperglycaemia) can potentially cause neurocognitive effects, that may have implications for driving. The RACGP recommends including this advice in the *Diabetes mellitus* section with input and advice from appropriate diabetes experts.

3. The inclusion of GP follow-up for some conditions

The RACGP welcomes the changes for some conditions that allow patients to see their GP for licence related reviews, rather than having to return to a non-GP specialist. This will particularly benefit patients in rural areas, who may otherwise have to travel to the city for these reviews.

4. Guideline implementation and further training

The RACGP recommends:

- provision of education and training in accessible formats, such as interactive online learning modules, for all relevant health professionals to increase awareness of the AFTD guidelines. These education programs should be provided by each state/territory. They should include core modules with consistent nation-wide information together with specific local context regarding laws, processes and resources.
- developing State-based helplines to assist health professionals in interpreting the standards, providing advice on driving fitness and local processes.

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

Yours sincerely



Dr Karen Price
President