

23 October 2023

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Via email: ccs@health.gov.au

Dear Professor Duggan

Re: Osteoarthritis of the Knee Clinical Care Standard

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Osteoarthritis of the Knee Clinical Care Standard.

GPs play a key role in identification, diagnosis, management, education, referral to related health services and in the coordination of a patient's multidisciplinary care. The RACGP's [Guideline for the management of knee and hip osteoarthritis](#) is used in the primary care setting by GPs and other health professionals to guide patient care. The RACGP [Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions](#) (HANDI) also includes resources on osteoarthritis for both the practitioner and the patient. We are pleased to note these resources have been referenced in the Standard.

We provide the following comments for consideration.

- Lines 770-771 – Box 1

It is important that any advice provided in the Clinical Care Standard is supported by a sound evidence base. For this reason, the RACGP recommends the British Dieticians Association (UK) Osteoarthritis and diet: Food Fact Sheet in Box 1 be removed.

The reference to the Healthy Habits tool is missing a link: <https://healthyhabits.racgp.org.au/>

- Line 937 – Table 1

The lack of evidence for the use paracetamol should be clearly articulated in Table 1.

- Line 772 – Quality statement 4

Passive manual therapies do not play a significant role in the treatment of OA of the knee. Self-conducted and individually tailored exercises and education are important in improving pain and function and should be strongly promoted.

RACGP endorsement and approval process

With regards to RACGP endorsement, this usually applies to clinical practice guidelines and resources. As this Clinical Care Standard focusses on areas of care for quality improvement, this does not fall within the RACGP's endorsement process. We suggest the ACSQHC considers producing a parallel resource that focusses on specific components in the Clinical Care Standard of most relevance to GPs. The RACGP could then assess this as a potential Accepted Clinical Resource. For further information on the criteria, levels of endorsement and approval processes, please visit [Endorsement of Clinical Resources](#).



RACGP
Royal Australian College
of General Practitioners

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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Osteoarthritis of the Knee Clinical Care Standard. 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

Reference:

1. AIHW (2023) [Chronic musculoskeletal conditions: Osteoarthritis](#), AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 17 October 2023