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To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Cc: [AGPA Secretariat](#)
Subject: Consultation: revised telehealth guidelines
Date: Thursday, 16 February 2023 9:28:19 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the two components of the guidelines related to telehealth consultations with patients, specifically regarding prescribing or providing healthcare for a patient you have never consulted.

The first component of the guidelines states that 'prescribing or providing healthcare for a patient with whom you have never consulted is not good practice and is not supported by the Board. This includes requests for medication communicated by text, email, or online that do not take place in real-time and are based on the patient completing a health questionnaire, but where the practitioner has never spoken with the patient.'

I fully support this guideline. It is important for practitioners to establish a relationship with their patients and conduct a proper assessment of their medical history and symptoms before prescribing any medication or providing healthcare. Providing safe and effective care to patients is essential, which can only be achieved through proper consultation.

The second component of the guidelines adds a new section on prescribing for a patient with whom a doctor has never consulted.

'The Board does not support prescribing for a patient with whom a doctor has never consulted, whether face-to-face, via video or telephone, as this is not good practice. The guidelines further state that any practitioner who prescribes for patients in these circumstances must be able to explain how the prescribing and management of the patient was appropriate in the circumstances.'

This guideline emphasizes the importance of conducting a proper consultation before prescribing medication or providing healthcare. This will ensure that patients receive appropriate and safe care and that practitioners are accountable for their actions.

In conclusion, I fully support the guidelines related to telehealth consultations with patients, specifically regarding prescribing or providing healthcare for a patient with whom you have never consulted. It is crucial for practitioners to establish a relationship with their patients, conduct a proper assessment, and provide safe and effective care. Following these guidelines will ensure that patients receive the best possible care, and practitioners can maintain the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct.

Sincerely,

Dr John Deery

Chair

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