



Clinical Autonomy for General Practitioners

The Practice shall ensure that General Practitioners are free, within the parameters of evidence-based care, to make decisions regarding patient's clinical care and not be forced to use practice systems that impact on the provision of individual patient care.

RACGP Standards

1.4.2 *Our practice ensures that all GPs in our practice can exercise autonomy in decisions that affect clinical care.*

Assessment methods

- Interview with practitioners

Surveyors will interview the Doctors to determine their right to exercise clinical autonomy within the parameters of evidence based medicine.

- Document review of written policy

Meeting the standards

The Practice shall have a written policy confirming that autonomy in decisions made by the Doctors is adhered to.

Doctors shall be free to choose which pathology or imaging provider, specialist or other health professional that they feel would benefit individual patient care. Appointment schedules and loads, supplies and equipment used within the Practice should be discussed with Doctors when they commence employment.

The Practice shall discuss with each Doctor their preferences for using the systems the Practice provides for clinical care, or be free to choose their own.

Best practice:

- The Practice is encouraged to have information available in a range of different languages, when appropriate.
- All health promotional / preventive care activities are recorded in the clinical notes.

Solo Practice:

In the case of Solo GP there is still a requirement for a policy to cover for locums or when the GP has another doctor working in the practice on an ad-hoc basis. However, if neither scenario ever occurs - for instance, when the solo GP takes leave and the practice is closed and patients are advised to attend practice(s) elsewhere for that time - there is no need to have such a policy. These situations will be discussed by the surveyors at visits.