



MEDIA RELEASE

10.05.16

CPCA calls for a clearer picture from Medical Board

The Cosmetic Physicians College of Australasia (CPCA) is broadly supportive of the Medical Board of Australia's (MBA's) newly issued guidelines on cosmetic medical and surgical procedures.

However, the CPCA does have significant concerns about specific elements of the guidelines. In particular, while point 7.2 of the guideline rightly states that prescribing of Schedule 4 medications over the phone or by email is inappropriate, it allows prescribing by video (e.g. via skype). The CPCA contends that this is also inappropriate in performing cosmetic medical and surgical consulting where assessment of the patient's skin and psychology are essential but cannot be effectively done via video. Video consultations were intended to help remote doctors and patients have follow up with city based specialists without the long travel. The intent was that the patient would visit their rural GP who would use video messaging to contact the relevant specialist with the patient. The use of video to perform five minute cosmetic consultations is an abuse of an otherwise excellent medical service.

Dr Cath Porter, spokesperson for the CPCA, said "Cosmetic medicine is a three dimensional skill, requiring a full and detailed face to face consultation by a medical practitioner who possesses suitable expertise in patient psychology as well as medical conditions and comorbidity, which can affect patient management."

The CPCA is also concerned with the vagueness of point 7.3 relating to prescribing Schedule 4 drugs where they are administered by another health practitioner. The only requirement is that the prescriber be contactable and able to respond. There is no definition of what "being able to respond" means. It should mean "can see the patient and offer assistance" which needs to be clearly stated.

"How can a doctor based in Sydney meaningfully respond to an emergency complication of a provider in Western Australia?" said CPCA President Dr Douglas Grose. "This is not medical practice as the general public understands the term. Patient safety is being put at risk by the use of remote prescribing on a day to day basis for cosmetic treatments."

The CPCA also has concerns that people other than doctors, who are using lasers and IPL devices, are not bound by the MBA's updated guidelines. Whilst these devices often achieve the desired results for patients, the current guidelines actively put patients at risk as the guidelines apply only to doctors.

"Qualified doctors are currently bound by a waiting period for the use of lasers or hair removal on patients under the age of 18. Beauty and dermal therapists experience none of the same restrictions. Common injuries associated with the improper use of light devices include permanent

skin discolouration, burns and scars – often at the hands of inexperienced individuals who operate without formal skin management qualification.

“This creates perverse incentives for people to seek treatments from less qualified and less regulated providers. The CPCA therefore believes that, at the very least, beauty and dermal therapists should be held to the same minimum waiting periods as qualified doctors,” said Dr Porter.

Finally, the CPCA cautions the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the Dental Board of Australia to immediately match the same guidelines for their nurse practitioners and dentists. Currently, doctors must comply with regulation and restrictions whilst non-doctors do not.

To find a qualified doctor with a focus on cosmetic medicine visit www.cPCA.net.au

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About the Cosmetic Physicians College of Australasia

The CPCA represents the largest body of doctors who perform non- or minimally-invasive cosmetic medical treatments in Australia. Incorporated in October 2014, the CPCA grew from an earlier organisation - the Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia Inc (CPSA).

The CPCA will extend the role of the CPSA by taking the form of a traditional college with regards to education, training and ethical practice standards. The CPCA’s objectives include developing and maintaining high standards of learning, skills and conduct in cosmetic medicine to help safeguard the public. The CPCA will also support public education and awareness of the benefits of cosmetic medicine.

For further information or to request an interview with a CPCA spokesperson, please contact Res Publica:

Baden Parker-Brown | bparkerbrown@respublica.com.au | 02 8297 1512