



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Statement

RACP welcomes 'Choosing Wisely Australia'

29 April 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) has today welcomed the launch of the Choosing Wisely Australia® (CWA) campaign.

President-elect Dr Catherine Yelland said the RACP is excited to be part of an initiative that will drive improvements in patient care.

"Choosing Wisely will play an important role in the growing movement to improve the quality of care across the health system by reducing unnecessary or ineffective tests and interventions," Dr Yelland said.

"This will no doubt stimulate discussion within the medical profession about 'best care' and also influence conversations between doctors and their patients," Dr Yelland said.

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) is the first physician specialty to launch its 'top 5' list of practices that should not be used.

The President of ASCIA, Dr Melanie Wong said one of its recommendations is not to use antihistamines as first-line treatment for anaphylaxis, the appropriate treatment is adrenaline.

"Many medical professionals and consumers aren't aware of this evidence, and this inevitably leads to delays in getting the right treatment," said Dr Wong.

"This delay could be potentially life-threatening," said Dr Wong.

Contributing to this movement, the RACP's EVOLVE initiative is physician-led and being developed in partnership with the RACP's more than 40 specialties. Its outcomes will contribute to the Choosing Wisely campaign, with work already underway by a number of other specialties.

NPS MedicineWise's Choosing Wisely and the work of ASCIA, the RACP and other Colleges is vital to driving these changes.

"This work will lead to improved knowledge and changes in clinical practice that will benefit patients and ensure they get the treatment they need, when they need it," Dr Yelland said.

Ends

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