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**RTPM Controlled Substances
(Confidentiality and Other Matters)
Amendment Bill 2020**

About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)

The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of over 17,000 physicians and 8,000 trainee physicians, across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine, and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.

RTPM Controlled Substances (Confidentiality and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020

Thank you for inviting feedback from The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and its Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM) on the proposed amendments to the Controlled Substances Act 1984.

AChAM advances the study of addiction medicine in Australia and New Zealand through training, research and collaboration with health professionals and organisations. AChAM advocates on behalf of its members and acts as an authoritative body for consultation on addiction medicine-related matters to ensure quality care for individuals with addiction disorders.

As per the information provided on the SA Health consultation website¹, we understand the following four proposed changes have been deemed necessary to support the introduction of a Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system in South Australia:

- “The confidentiality arrangements in Section 60A have been amended to ensure prescribers and pharmacists have appropriate access to data from the RTPM system and coupled with amendments to the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011 will maintain and strengthen the existing data confidentiality provisions. The regulation amendments, which will also present the specific detail of the SA RTPM system, will be subject to a separate public consultation in mid-2020.
- Section 60A(2) has been added to ensure that the data available to prescribers and pharmacists under the RTPM system cannot be used for purposes other than the RTPM system.
- Administrative changes to Section 18A change the requirement for the Authority process from being in ‘writing’ to a form of communication as ‘approved by the Minister’, which will allow future Authority applications to be made through the RTPM system.
- Further to these changes, the prescribed penalty for offences against the regulations has been increased to a maximum of \$10,000 (from \$5,000), and a new provision for expiations for offences under the regulations has been included. This is consistent with the other penalties in the CS Act.”

In reviewing these proposed changes, we have consulted with AChAM members and with the RACP-affiliated Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) which has provided advice from the ASCEPT Clinical Pharmacology Special Interest Group and ASCEPT Board. Based on the feedback received, we are pleased to advise that we support the proposed changes.

Should you require further information about this correspondence, please contact Ms Stephanie Colbert, AChAM Executive Officer, on AChAM@racp.edu.au.

¹<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/reviews+and+consultation/controlled+substances+%28confidentiality+and+other+matters%29+amendment+bill+2020>