

Media Release

RACP proud to be part of Choosing Wisely launch in New Zealand

7 December 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is proud to be part of today's New Zealand launch of Choosing Wisely by the Council of Medical Colleges.

Choosing Wisely seeks to raise awareness of low value treatments by developing recommendations about which tests, treatments and procedures should be questioned in certain clinical contexts. The campaign has already been successfully launched in Australia, Canada and the USA.

In New Zealand, Choosing Wisely will be facilitated by the Council of Medical Colleges, with the support of the Ministry of Health, Health Quality & Safety Commission and Consumer New Zealand.

Significant work completed as part of the RACP's Evolve initiative means the RACP is well placed to contribute to today's launch, including recommendations from a number of its specialty societies*.

The RACP New Zealand President Dr Jonathan Christiansen said the RACP had been a long term supporter of Choosing Wisely.

"Working to ensure the highest quality care for our patients is at the heart of what it means to be a physician and paediatrician," explained Dr Christiansen. "This work will lead to improved knowledge and changes in clinical practice, helping to ensure patients get the highest quality care they need.

"Importantly, evidence-based recommendations from Choosing Wisely will also help facilitate conversations between physicians and their patients.

"As a member of the Council of Medical Colleges, we will continue to be an active contributor to development of Choosing Wisely in New Zealand and we look forward to the Choosing Wisely Forum in March."

** Includes the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists, Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Australian & New Zealand Association of Neurologists, Australian & New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine, Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, Human Genetics Society of Australasia and New Zealand Dermatological Society.*

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About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 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.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.