



The Royal
Australian and
New Zealand
College of
Radiologists

The Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
PO Box 5480
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Sir

National Patient Charter of Rights

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft National Patient Charter of Rights.

While generally supporting the document, the College notes that there is no reference to any requirement for the health care system to indicate to the patient that the health care professional delivering the service is appropriately trained and skilled in the delivery of that particular service. This is not always the case and there are many instances in which a procedure or service is provided by a doctor or other professional who does not have the required training, experience and skills.

There is general reference under the principle on *Safety* to health care services being “provided with professional care, skill and competence” and that care is “provided by the most appropriate health care professional”. However, “appropriate” in this sense is not defined and cannot be assumed to mean appropriately trained and skilled.

The document goes on to refer to *Possible Applications for the National Charter* and amongst other things identifies “Accreditation standards”. A strengthening of the Charter in relation to *Safety*, as proposed above, would also have direct application to “Credentialling” of health care providers by institutions and employers, as described in the document issued by the former Australian Council on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

The College hopes that these comments are helpful to the Commission.

Yours sincerely

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President

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