

23 August 2016

Mr Josh Munro
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Mr Munro,

Re: Court ref: 2009 004996 – death of Yamini B Patel

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 1 March 2016 regarding the death of Yamini B Patel (Court ref: 2009 004996).

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the College responds to the recommendation as follows:

Recommendation

That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners use the circumstances of Yamini's death and in particular, how Dr Dixit's relationship with the Patel family influenced his clinical decision making about Yamini, as part of its 'conflict of interest' training to general practitioners.

The RACGP *Curriculum for Australian General Practice 2016* includes five domains of general practice which represent the critical areas of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for competent unsupervised general practice. They are relevant to every general patient consultation. Domain 4 relates to the professional and ethical role of general practitioners.

The RACGP will remind members of professional boundaries when treating family and friends and refer general practitioners to the *Australian Medical Board Code of Conduct, March 2014* with specific reference to the following paragraph:

3.14 Personal relationships

Whenever possible, avoid providing medical care to anyone with whom you have a close personal relationship. In most cases, providing care to close friends, those you work with and family members is inappropriate because of the lack of objectivity, possible discontinuity of care, and risks to the doctor and patient. In some cases, providing care to those close to you is unavoidable. Whenever this is the case, good medical practice requires recognition and careful management of these issues.

This will be achieved by placing a relevant item in the RACGP Victoria Newsletter.

The RACGP has also passed this scenario though to our Education Department for consideration to be used as a teaching scenario or basis for assessment questions.



RACGP

Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

Should you or the Coroner wish to discuss this further, please contact RACGP Victoria on (03) 8699 0468.

Yours sincerely

Assoc Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair - RACGP Victoria