

25 August 2016

Ms Cheryl Vella
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Vella,

Re: Court ref: 2010 004762 – death of Benjamin A Appelman

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 1 June 2016 regarding the death of Benjamin A Appelman (Court ref: 2010 004762).

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 develop guidelines or otherwise inform its members as to minimum standards for ensuring effective transfer of care between general practitioners or practices. In particular, the RACGP include guidance as to what should be included in a patient's medical records to ensure accurate, comprehensive and current information accompanies a patient to a subsequent general practitioner upon a transfer of care.

The RACGP recently developed a resource *Managing external requests for patient information* which is a guide for general practices to advise which data elements should be extracted from a patient's electronic medical record when responding to an external request for their record. The guide includes a section on the transfer of care when a patient moves to a different practice including a list of the types of patient information to be sent as part of transferring care of a patient.

The guide is published on the RACGP website at <http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/ehealth/optimus/managing/>

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