



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners

Media release

For immediate release

6 October 2011

New RACGP Computer and Information Security Standards and workbook launched

To support general practices implementing good information management and security processes, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is today launching the RACGP *Computer and Information Security Standards* and an accompanying workbook.

The new standards and workbook, a major revision of the RACGP *Computer security guidelines: a self assessment guide and checklist for general practice* (3rd edition)*, have been designed as a self-assessment guide for general practices and meet international standards in health information security as well as the national privacy principles.

Dr John Bennett, Chair of the RACGP National Standing Committee – e-health, said that general practice has quite specific requirements in computer and information security and pointed out that it is essential that general practices put in place good information management and security processes to ensure patient and practice information is protected.

“It can be a challenge to find external security experts and technical service providers who understand the business of delivering care in the general practice environment.

“The RACGP *Computer and Information Security Standards* and the workbook provide general practitioners and their teams with useful tools and information to implement protection measures to help them in achieving best practice in computer and information security.

Dr Bennett highlighted that the standards and workbook were developed to guide general practices in understanding what is required for implementation of good computer and information security strategies within their practices.

“The standards include aspects such as governance processes, understanding the risks to information, good planning and implementing appropriate security measures. The accompanying workbook is a tool to assist the practice record the essential information needed to put in place effective computer and information security,” he said.

The RACGP *Computer and Information Security Standards* will be available in PDF version and the accompanying workbook as an MS Word manual, including templates to use and adapt to individual general practices. Both resources will be available for download from www.racgp.org.au/ehealth/ciss by the end of October 2011.

The RACGP *Computer and Information Security Standards* will be launched today at the GP11 conference by Professor Claire Jackson, RACGP President, at 4.45pm. For more information about GP11 and to download the conference program, please visit www.gp11.com.au.

*The new standards and workbook are a major revision of the RACGP *Computer security guidelines: a self assessment guide and checklist for general practice* (3rd edition) which was based on the *Computer security self-assessment guideline and checklist for general practitioners* (2nd edition) published in 2005 by the General Practice Computing Group, and on work done in 2001 by the RACGP and the Australian Medical Association.

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners. We represent over 20,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice and are proud that over 18,000 general practitioners in Australia have chosen to be a member of the College. There are over 125 million general practice consultations taking place annually in Australia.

Visit www.racgp.org.au.