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7th February, 2012

Dr. Robert Fendall
Chair
Osteopathy Board of Australia
G.P.O. Box 9958
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Re: Guidelines for Clinical Records

The Osteopathy Unit at Victoria University supports the development of the Guidelines for Clinical Records by the Osteopathy Board of Australia. We feel, however, that the section dealing with the use of terminology and abbreviations could be reviewed. Currently the Guideline suggests "To ensure other practitioners can understand the terminology and abbreviations in the record, standard Australian clinical abbreviations are to be used (see point 2 of the References section at the end of this document)." Point 2 refers to the Australian Dictionary of Clinical Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols.

While this Dictionary contains standard medical abbreviations and accepted abbreviations used by Health Information Managers, it contains no osteopathy specific abbreviations or terminology. It is suggested that this section of the Guidelines be modified to additionally recommend use of common osteopathic abbreviations and terminology, as outlined in the paper 'Abbreviations for use in osteopathic case notes' (*Fryer G. Abbreviations for use in osteopathic case notes. J Osteopath Med. 2001;4(1):21-24*). We feel that this modification may assist the osteopathy teaching institutions to teach appropriate and consistent abbreviations and terminology.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Fryer".

Dr Gary Fryer *PhD, BSc(Osteo), ND*

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Discipline Leader – Osteopathic Studies
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Cc: Professor Greg Blatch, Head, School of Biomedical & Health Science.