a healthier world through sonographer expertise

Friday, 29 October 2021

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Medical Officer
C/- Alice Bhasale
Director Clinical Care Standards
Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

By email to ccs@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Conjoint Professor Duggan,

Thank you for inviting the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) to provide input to the early stage of development of the clinical care standard on stillbirth and bereavement care.

Sonographers can be the first contact in the initial diagnosis and communication of stillbirth and prenatal death. These standards must provide guidance on communicating bad news in a compassionate and patient-centred way. They should also describe the immediate support and follow-up required and who should be involved to best support bereavement care.

The following resource could support the development of these parts of this clinical care standard:

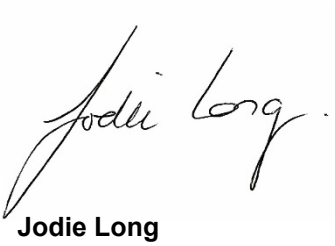
- Johnson J, Arezina J, Tomlin L, Alt S, Arnold J, Bailey S, Beety H, Bender-Atik R, Bryant L, Coates J, Collinge S. *UK consensus guidelines for the delivery of unexpected news in obstetric ultrasound: The ASCKS framework*. Ultrasound. 2020 Nov;28(4):235-45. https://doi.org/10.1177/1742271X20935911

We note the high calibre of the Stillbirth Clinical Care Standard Topic Working Group members. We can also facilitate the groups access to sonographers with knowledge in this area to support the development of the clinical standard if needed.

If you require any additional information to support this feedback or anything else, please write to me directly or contact the ASA Policy and Advocacy Advisor, James Brooks-Dowsett, by phone at +61 406 998 429 or email to policy@sonographers.org.

Thank you again for involving us at this early stage. We look forward to supporting the development of these essential standards.

Yours sincerely,



Jodie Long

Chief Executive Officer

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