



**ANZCA**  
FPM

25 February 2022

Kay Martin  
Senior Nurse Advisor, Private Hospitals & NEPT Regulation  
Victorian Department of Health  
50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Ms Martin

### Guideline for providers of liposuction – Feedback on draft

Thank you for inviting the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) to provide feedback on the Victorian Department of Health's draft Guideline for providers of liposuction.

ANZCA, including the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), is committed to setting the highest standards of clinical practice in the fields of anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain medicine. As one of the largest medical colleges in Australia, ANZCA is responsible for the postgraduate training programs of anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians, in addition to promoting best practice and ongoing continuous improvement that contributes to a high quality health system.

We asked members of our Safety and Quality Committee to discuss the draft guideline at a recent meeting. Feedback was generally supportive and recognised the guideline as a useful tool for medical and nursing staff involved in the provision of liposuction services in Victoria.

There was some discussion about whether some procedures that might be able to be classed as liposuction should be included in the scope of the guideline. Particular examples raised were gender confirmation surgery and breast augmentation.

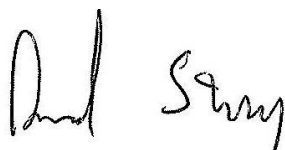
We understand that it is not intended for gender confirmation surgery to be considered in scope, suggest that this be clarified in the guideline to avoid confusion.

Tumescent anaesthesia and analgesia techniques that are used for liposuction are used by some for other procedures, such as breast augmentation surgery as part of creating the pocket for breast prosthesis insertion. The committee discussed a view that has been expressed that since the technique is considered 'safe' in liposuction, that therefore it can be claimed to be 'safe' in breast augmentation also.

Committee members described the difference in body fat percentage usually observed between these patients groups, and suggested that techniques such as tumescent anaesthesia and analgesia should not be presumed to be safe in different scenarios. We suggest that the scope statement should also include that breast augmentation surgery is not in scope for the guideline.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft standard. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact ANZCA safety and quality policy staff in the first instance at [sq@anzca.edu.au](mailto:sq@anzca.edu.au).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Story', written in a cursive style.

Professor David Story  
**Chair, Safety and Quality Committee**