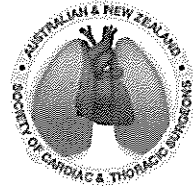


The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons

ABN 44503186462



Professor Julian Smith
Chair, Professional Development and Standards Board
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
College of Surgeons' Gardens
250-290 Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia

RE: ANZSCTS response - Choosing Wisely.

Dear Julian,

Following a conference call with Paul Bannon and Jayme Bennetts to discuss the Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) response to the Choosing Wisely recommendations in relation to Cardiac Surgery we make the following points and outline potential responses to our membership and the College.

- Australia and New Zealand present different challenges around implementation of guidelines within their respective health systems.
- Many of the recommendations around CTS practice are from non-surgical Colleges e.g.; radiology, anesthesia, and cardiology. This potentially necessitates collaboration with similar Australasian entities.
- The evidence base for the Overseas College recommendations is not currently available to us.

Within our discussion we outlined the following potential courses of action.

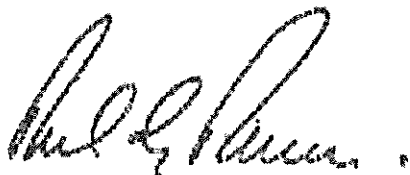
- Forming Working Groups within ANZSCTS to review each of the recommendations producing our own literature reviews and evidence base.
- Contacting the Presidents of relevant overseas Colleges and Organizations (e.g. STS) to obtain their evidence base and then endorse their guidelines.
- Summarise and endorse the overseas guidelines en masse as ANZSCTS recommendations similar to adopting AHA/ESC guidelines.

Clearly there is a gradation of work and effort and thus timeframes around these response options. The consensus was that this should be discussed at the next Executive Meeting at the ANZSCTS Meeting in Adelaide and a course of action defined at that juncture.

Certainly from a College and PDSB perspective it should be noted that these Choosing Wisely recommendations are for the main part by those involved to this point almost unanimously supported as is the concept of a sensible evidence based approach to limitation of unnecessary investigations and interventions.

It would be expected that a clear way forward and quite possibly a release of recommendations by the Society would be in place by the February Meeting of the PDSB.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bannon
President
ANZSCTS



Philip Davis
Representative - PDSB
ANZSCTS