RACGP

Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

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**RACGP *STANDARDS FOR GENERAL PRACTICES* (4TH EDITION) FACT SHEET**

**INTERPRETATION OF CRITERION 4.2.2 B**

**What the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) say**

Criterion 4.2.2, Indicator B of the RACGP *Standards for general practices* (4th edition) (the Standards) includes the requirement that "our practice ensures that our practice computers and servers comply with the RACGP computer security checklist".

**Which computer security checklist must practices comply with in order to meet Criterion 4.2.2, Indicator B?**

There are two ways in which a general practice is able to meet the requirements of Criterion 4.2.2, Indicator B.

1) As stated in the Standards, general practices can comply with the RACGP computer security checklist as set out in the RACGP *Computer security guidelines: A self assessment guide and checklist for general practice* (3rd edition). This can be accessed at www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Guidelines/2010csg.pdf

2) General practices can instead choose to meet the requirements set out in the RACGP *Computer and information security standards* (2nd edition).

**Rationale**

The intent of Criterion 4.2.2 is to ensure that practices undergoing accreditation demonstrate a commitment to computer and information security.

The RACGP recognises that computer and information security requirements for practices are a rapidly changing area.

When the Standards were released in October 2010, the RACGP *Computer security guidelines: A self assessment guide and checklist for general practice* (3rd edition) was the current College document regarding computer and information security. As such, it is acceptable for practices to meet the requirements of the computer security checklist outlined in this document to meet the requirements of Criterion 4.2.2, Indicator B of the Standards.

However, in June 2013, the RACGP *Computer and information security standards* (2nd edition) were released. This document provides general practices with up to date information and recommendations designed to raise awareness of contemporary security issues and help protect against potential exposure to loss of sensitive data. As such, practices can choose to meet the requirements of the RACGP *Computer and information security standards* (2nd edition) in order to meet Criterion 4.2.2, Indicator B of the Standards.

**Additional information**

For practices who choose to meet the requirements of the computer security checklist in the *Computer security guidelines: A self assessment guide and checklist for general practice* (3rd edition), the RACGP recommends that these practices familiarise themselves with the new requirements set out in the *Computer and information security standards* (2nd edition) and consider whether to implement the new standards as part of the practice's continuous quality improvement program.

Practices that are registered to participate in the Australian Government's personally controlled electronic health record system (PCEHR) are required to comply with the *Computer and information security standards* (2nd edition).