

Appendix C - Modified (written, emailed) questionnaire for Canadian participants

Documents to be read in conjunction with this questionnaire.

1. Research Project Outline
2. Plain Language Statement
3. Consent Form

The researchers are primarily looking at the systems in place in Australia. Comparative data from jurisdictions such as Canada with a similar health care framework will add valuable information to the project, and your participation is much appreciated.

Participation is voluntary – please return the questionnaire to the sender if you do not wish to participate.

Please consider the questions below and answer using free text immediately below each question. The responses are anonymous and will be analysed to provide the researchers with a broad overview of the Canadian Regulatory approach to the issues relevant to the research subject.

QUESTIONS:

1. With respect to the performance of the specialist surgeon, would you consider age as a relevant factor, and if so why?
2. If we agree that age is one of several factors affecting performance, what would you regard as a reasonable age to begin additional review or surveillance? Reasons for selecting this?
3. When we use the term ‘performance’, when referring to a surgeon, what domains of practice do you consider this reflects?
4. What factors should determine when a surgeon ceases operating?
5. If an under-performing surgeon is identified by (mandated) age-based assessment, (and was brought to the attention of your authority) how do you see this best managed and who should lead this process?