

PE1443/N



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

4 October 2013

Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Howlett

Thank you for seeking further clarification from RCGP Scotland. This correspondence has been passed to me on my succession to Dr Duncan as Deputy Chair (policy).

- How many GPs have accessed the e-learning module covering early pregnancy loss, and have there been any issues raised in relation to the number of GPs taking up the course?

Unfortunately I have been unable to find numbers relating to uptake of this course and I believe they may be misleading as a measure of preparedness of our profession in dealing with this medical problem. As you know the range of conditions we see in General Practice is huge. Our skills in meeting these needs depends on having specific knowledge, referring patients when necessary to specialists and our generalists skills in assessing patients biological, psychological and social issues. GPs will seek these sort of on line learning courses as on of many possible ways to update their learning if they feel that they have a specific learning need. Others will learn by small group learning, reading, on-line research, discussion with colleagues, work shadowing and face-to-face courses.

- How do you ensure there is an emphasis on patient centred care, as outlined in your previous response, in situations where patients request testing and further investigation after a first or second miscarriage?

Patient centre care depends on our ability to the patients needs as above. Patient's response to miscarriage varies hugely. It is our job to respond. The scientific guidelines endorsed by our colleagues at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have been rigorously assessed and I refer to Dr Duncan's previous response on the problems of unfocused testing. It would be wrong to refer patients for testing in the absence of evidence of benefit.

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Scottish Charity registration number SC040430



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Yours Sincerely,

**Dr Miles Mack FRCGP**

Deputy Chair (policy), RCGP Scotland

Letter sent by email on 4 October 2013.

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