



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

**PE1443/P**

18 December 2013

Stuart Todd  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Todd

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1443**

**ISSUES / QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 26  
NOVEMBER 2013**

Thank you for seeking further clarification from RCGP Scotland to the following points: -

- The Committee draws your attention to the points made by John Wilson MSP during the discussion on the issue of patient-centred healthcare. Please provide clarification on your definition of patient-centred healthcare.

Patient centred care is a core value of General Practice. It is a complex matter and I refer you to the RCGP Core Curriculum Statement: - "Being a General Practitioner"

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/~media/Files/GP-training-and-exams/Curriculum-2012/RCGP-Curriculum-1-Being-a-GP.ashx> .

*"Person-centred care is about understanding and relating to your patients as individuals, and developing the ability to work in partnership".*

This statement should not be taken out of context however, as GPs also have a responsibility to balance this statement with the other 5 core areas as set out on

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page 6 of *“Being a General Practitioner”*. This includes a responsibility to practice medicine in line with best current evidence and within recognised guidelines.

- What is your position on whether a patient would have the right to request that appropriate testing or investigation be done following a single miscarriage?

I again refer to our previous statement to the committee of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

*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.*

**Dr Miles Mack FRCGP**

Deputy Chair (policy), RCGP Scotland