

Standards for General Practice:

The RACGP *Standards for general practices* (4th edition) are designed to assist general practices to become efficient and effective health care businesses through quality improvement activities. The *Standards* are based on a framework of good governance - a framework which ultimately makes all members of the general practice team accountable for patient safety and high quality clinical care. The RACGP *Standards for general practices* (4th edition) were launched at GP10 conference - in October 2010.

A free PDF version of the [RACGP Standards for general practices \(4th edition\) is now available](#).

Hard copy versions of the 4th edition *Standards* will be available in December 2010.

The RACGP [Computer security guidelines \(3rd edition\)](#) is a free companion document which is also available now.

Accreditation against the 4th edition Standards:

For practices wishing to become accredited against the RACGP *Standards*, there will be a period of changeover from the 3rd to the 4th edition. This transition period will allow general practices to become familiar with the 4th edition *Standards*, update practice systems and purchase new equipment as required. It will also provide time for accreditation agencies to update their evaluation systems and train surveyors in the new requirements of the 4th edition *Standards*.

Transition phases:

Phase 1 - 10 October 2010 to 30 June 2011: Practices registering for accreditation or commencing the reaccreditation process during this period will be assessed against the 3rd edition *Standards*. Practices that would prefer to be assessed against the 4th edition *Standards* during this period should contact their accreditation agency for advice.

Phase 2 - 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011: During this period practices may elect to be assessed against either the 3rd edition *Standards* or 4th edition *Standards*, subject to negotiation with AGPAL or GPA ACCREDITATION *plus*.

Phase 3 - 1 November 2011: Any practice that registers for accreditation on or after this date, or commences the reaccreditation process on or after this date, must be assessed against the 4th edition *Standards*. The opportunity to be assessed against the 3rd edition *Standards* will cease from this date.

Education sessions:

The RACGP will be offering free webinars to provide information about new features of the 4th edition *Standards*. Education sessions will commence in February 2011. A copy of the [webinar presentation on key differences between the 3rd and 4th edition Standards](#) is available.

What's different?

A [summary of key differences between the 3rd and 4th edition Standards](#) is now available.