



# The College of Emergency Medicine

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Dear Colleague,

**Re: New CEM standard for senior review**

Today sees the publication of a new College of Emergency Medicine standard for Consultant "sign off" of selected high risk patients being discharged from the Emergency Department. This follows wide consultation and two periods of consideration by College Council.

The new standard is a major step forward for the College, and reflects the specialty's desire to improve the quality of care delivered in the ED through the steady expansion of Consultant numbers. It should be viewed as a driver for change and growth. Indeed, the concept of Emergency Medicine Consultant "sign off" in the ED has been welcomed by the Department of Health as part of the current initiative to identify and promote indicators of quality, alongside measures of timeliness in emergency care.

We welcome comment and feedback as the new standard is introduced and develops over time. Further refinements will be required, and not all departments will yet be able to achieve this all of the time, particularly in the initial stages.

We hope you will agree that this new standard represents an important development for Emergency Medicine in the UK, to enhance patient care whilst at the same time offering a strong incentive for the ongoing expansion in Emergency Medicine Consultant numbers that is needed to achieve this.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Bengier  
Chair, Clinical Effectiveness Committee

John Heyworth  
President

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