

SPORTS PHYSICIAN SPECIALISATION Introducing “Sport and Exercise Medicine”

From November 1, 2010, Sport and Exercise Medicine will be recognised by Medicare and the Australian Medical Council as an official medical specialty. This recognition is enormously positive for the future of sports medicine in Australia, and will inevitably lead to even higher standards of care in a field in which Australia already leads the world.

The Australasian College of Sports Physicians (ACSP; www.acsp.org.au) was founded in 1986 and the college has continued to grow and thrive in Australia and New Zealand. The college now has over 140 fellows in Australia and New Zealand. The training of Sports Physicians has evolved over the 24 years into the most rigorous training program of its kind in the world. In recent years this has been recognised by Medicare Australia and the Australian Medical Council. From November 1 Sports Physicians will be termed “Sport and Exercise Physicians” and as stated above will be considered medical specialists.

For the patients of The Stadium Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Centre, this change will have one major impact: from November 1, all patients consulting any of the 3 Sport and Exercise Physicians (Dr Tom Cross, Dr Sharron Flahive and Dr Seamus Dalton) **will require a medical (usually from their general practitioner) referral to be able to claim a Medicare rebate for their consultation**, just like any other specialist.

Dr Seamus Dalton is both a Sport and Exercise Physician and also a Rehabilitation Physician. Patients who have consulted him as a Rehabilitation Physician have always required a medical referral and this will remain the case. Patients referred to Dr Dalton for a Sport and Exercise consultation will now require a medical referral also.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention several other exciting components of our practice. The Stadium Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Centre is a multi-specialty practice, combining Orthopaedic Surgeons, Sport and Exercise Physicians, Physiotherapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Nutrition and a specialist Radiology practice with on-site MRI and X-ray services. The aim is to deliver an integrated and controlled approach to rehabilitation, ensuring patients a swift return to their normal routine.

The college of Sport and Exercise Medicine are very aware of the close relationship Sport and Exercise Physicians have with physiotherapists and will continue to lobby for physiotherapists to be able to directly refer to Sport and Exercise Physicians.

If you have any questions regarding specialisation or any of these forms of treatment, do not hesitate to contact our practice on 8323 6500. We look forward to continuing to work with you in optimizing the care of your patients.

Kind Regards

Dr Tom Cross
Dr Seamus Dalton
Dr Sharon Flahive