



# Waterhall Medical Centre

## Waterhall Medical Centre Internet and Email Policy

Current as of: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

### Introduction

#### ***Explanatory notes***

*Waterhall Medical Centre's practice internet and email policy provides guidance to our team on what they can do and cannot do when using the internet and email from devices provided by your practice for business purposes.*

*Waterhall Medical Centre* recognises the practice team requires access to email and the internet to assist in the efficient and safe delivery of healthcare services to our patients. *Waterhall Medical Centre* supports the right of staff to have access to reasonable personal use of the internet and email communications in the workplace using the devices and networks provided by the practice.

### Purpose and objectives

This policy sets out guidelines for acceptable use of internet and email by the practice team, contractors and other staff of *Waterhall Medical Centre*. Internet and email is provided primarily to assist the team carry out their duties of employment.

### Scope

This internet and email policy applies to the practice team, contractors and other staff of *Waterhall Medical Centre* who access the internet and email on practice owned devices, including, but not limited to desk phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, iPads and other tablet devices to perform their work.

Use of the internet by the practice team, contractors and other staff is permitted and encouraged where this supports the goals and objectives of *Waterhall Medical Centre*. Access to the internet is a privilege and the practice team, contractors and other staff must adhere to this policy.

Violation of these policies could result in the following action:

- disciplinary and/or legal action
- termination of employment
- the practice team, contractors and other staff being held personally liable for damages caused by any violations of this policy]

All employees are required to confirm they have understood and agree to abide by this email and internet policy.

Policy created from Internet and Email Policy Template by RACGP

Reviewed by: [Practice Manager](#)

Review Date: 2020

## Policy content

The practice team, contractors and other staff may use the internet and email access provided by *Waterhall Medical Centre* for:

- any work and work-related purposes
- limited personal use
- more extended personal use under specific circumstances (see below)

## Limited personal use of email and internet

Limited personal use is permitted where it is:

- infrequent and brief use
- does not interfere with the duties of the practice team, contractors and other staff
- does not interfere with the operation of Waterhall Medical Centre
- does not compromise the security of Waterhall Medical Centre
- does not impact on Waterhall Medical Centre's electronic storage capacity
- does not decrease Waterhall Medical Centre's network performance (eg large email attachments can decrease system performance and potentially cause system outages)
- does not incur any additional expense for Waterhall Medical Centre
- does not violate any legislation
- does not compromise any confidentiality requirements of Waterhall Medical Centre

Examples of what could be considered reasonable personal use are:

- conducting a brief online bank transaction
- paying a bill
- sending a brief personal email, like making a brief personal phone call

## Unacceptable internet and email use

The practice team, contractors and other staff may not use internet or email access provided by *Waterhall Medical Centre* to:

- creating or exchanging messages that are offensive, harassing, obscene or threatening
- visiting web sites containing objectionable (including pornographic) or criminal material
- exchanging any confidential or sensitive information held by your general practice
- creating, storing or exchanging information in violation of copyright laws
- using internet-enabled activities such as gambling, gaming, conducting a business or conducting illegal activities
- creating or exchanging advertisements, solicitations, chain letters and other unsolicited or bulk email
- playing electronic or online games in work time.

## Policy review statement

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects the current processes and procedures of *Waterhall Medical Centre* and current legislation requirements. Review annually.