Whistleblowing: Freedom to speak out

Venue: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
Date: Friday, 23 September 2016

Recent high profile cases have shown that unless those responsible for the care of vulnerable people have the necessary knowledge and confidence to address areas of neglect or bad practice, serious harm or tragic consequences may occur.

Why attend?

• Find out how to effectively raise concerns regarding patient safety
• Hear about the ‘cost’ of raising such concerns and how to be prepared if faced with such a situation
• Learn from the experiences of others
• Find out what support is available to those who wish to speak up
• Understand how to advise colleagues on raising and managing issues

Who should attend?

• All members of the health care team involved in safeguarding and preventing harm to patient
• Junior doctors and dentists
• Health service managers/personnel and health boards
• Medical professionals
• Social care professionals

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In some cases of whistleblowing it has marked the beginning of a deeply harrowing experience involving marginalisation, threats of reprisals, pressure to sign gagging clauses, stress, suspension, and in extreme cases - the person’s job.

Many of these issues were raised in the Francis Report on failings in care at Mid Staffordshire, published in 2013. Following a subsequent review of the way NHS organisations deal with concerns raised by staff, Robert Francis QC subsequently published another report in 2015 called Freedom to Speak Up.

Speakers include:

- Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Shona Robison MSP
- High profile whistleblowers
- Organisations experienced in supporting and advising whistleblowers
- Author of the report “Shoot the Messenger – How NHS Whistleblowers are silenced and sacked”, Andrew Bousfield. This report was also co-authored by Dr Phil Hammond

Programme

08:30 Registration

09:05 Welcome and introduction
Professor David Galloway, President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and Professor Graham Ogden, Dean Elect (Dental Faculty) Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

SESSION 1: CHAIR - PROFESSOR GRAHAM OGDEN
Dean Elect (Dental Faculty) Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

09:20 Sharpening the Manager’s guillotine - The Modern NHS
Andrew Bousfield, Barrister, 3 Paper Buildings, London

10:00 Raising concerns: how to keep yourself safe and do the right thing for your patient
Dr Kim Holt, Haringey Designated Doctor for Children in Care, Whittington Health

10:40 Discussion
10:55  Refreshment break

SESSION 2: CHAIR - PROFESSOR DAVID GALLOWAY
President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

11:20  Whistleblowing arrangements in NHS Scotland
Ms Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing & Sport, Scottish Government

11:25  Break out groups to discuss issues raised

12:00  Whistleblowing – getting it right
Cathy James, CEO, Public Concern at Work

12:50  Discussion

13:00  Lunch

SESSION 3: CHAIR - ROBERT CARR
Chair, AndersonStrathern

14:00  Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil.
Why Confucius was wrong and health professionals must speak up
Norman Provan, Associate Director, Employment Relations, Royal College of Nursing

14:40  Duty of candour: help or hindrance?
Professor Craig White, Healthcare Quality and Strategy Directorate, Planning and Quality Division, DG Health and Social Care, Scottish Government

15:05  Discussion

15:15  Refreshment break

SESSION 4: CHAIR - DR JACKIE TAYLOR
Vice-President (Medical), Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

15:40  It’s the final whistle...and it’s all over??
Robert Carr, Chair, AndersonStrathern, and Professor Alan Paterson OBE, Director, Centre for Professional Legal Studies

16:15  Reflections on supporting whistle-blowers – an MDO perspective
Dr Peter MacKenzie, Senior Medicolegal Advisor, Medical Protection Society

16:40  Discussion

17:00  Thank you and close
Registration

☐ I wish to register for Whistleblowing symposium 23 September 2016

Name:
Grade and specialty:
Place of work:
Address (for correspondence):
Postcode:
Phone:
Email:
RCP SG PID: GMC/GDC No:

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AHP: £100 [ ]  Trainee £90 [ ]

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SESSION 3: THE FRAIL OLDER PERSON AT THE FRONT DOOR

13:30 Implications of the Silver Book
Mr Jay Banerjee, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

14:00 Experience of a geriatrician at the front door
Dr Rowan Wallace, Consultant in Geriatric Care, University Hospital Crosshouse

14:30 Care at home
Dr Ana Talbot, Consultant, Medicine for the Elderly, Monklands Hospital

15:00 Refreshment break

CLOSING SESSION

15:20 Treatment escalation planning in medical high dependency
Julie Hannah, Resuscitation officer, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Dr Chris Wright, Consultant in Acute Medicine and Intensive Care Medicine, University Hospital Crosshouse

15:50 A case that changed my practice
Dr Rhid Dowdle, Former President of Society for Acute Medicine

16:20 Thank you and closing remarks
Dr David Wilkin, Consultant in Acute Medicine, University Hospital Crosshouse

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Programme may be subject to change
Whistleblowing: Freedom to speak out

Clinicians have a duty of care to speak up if they believe a patient is at risk of harm.

However, past experience suggests that bringing such concerns to hospital authorities is not always welcomed.

This symposium addresses some of the findings raised in the Francis Report, which stresses the importance of whistleblowing and protection of staff to ensure patient safety.

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Confirmed speakers include:

**Professor Bryan Cotton**  
Associate Professor and Director,  
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship,  
UTHealth Medical School, Houston  
Texas

**Christine Gaarder (Tina)**  
Director of Trauma and Head,  
Department of Traumatology, Oslo  
University Hospital, Ulleval

**Lt Col Nigel Tai**  
Clinical Director of Trauma, Royal  
London Hospital, Whitechapel

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Donna Johnston, Education events administrator  
Royal College of Physicians  
and Surgeons of Glasgow  
232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ
4th Annual
Acute Medicine Symposium
Friday, 20 March 2015

Programme

08:30  Registration, tea and coffee

09:00  Introduction and welcome
David Wilkin, Consultant in Acute Medicine, University Hospital Crosshouse

SESSION 1: OBESITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FRONT DOOR

09:05  Overview of the obesity problem
Dr Jennifer Logue, Chief Scientist Office / NHS Education Scotland
Clinician Scientist Intermediate Fellow in Metabolic Medicine

09:35  Idiopathic intracranial hypertension
Dr Pushkar Shah, Consultant Neurologist, Southern General Hospital

10:05  Obesity hypoventilation syndrome
Dr Christopher Carlin, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, Gartnavel General Hospital

10:35  Refreshment break

SESSION 2: CLINICAL DILEMMAS

11:05  When it’s not pneumonia
Dr Peter Kewin, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, Victoria Infirmary

11:35  Assessing chest pain at the front door
Dr Stuart Hood, Consultant Cardiologist, Royal Alexandra Hospital

12:05  Upper limb DVT: how to investigate and manage
Dr Katy Waddell, Acute Medicine Registrar, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

12:35  Lunch