

FILE NOTE

Meeting of Toni Hoffman, Linda Mulligan and Peter Leck 20 October 2004 – 3.30pm

Peter Leck began meeting by thanking Toni for her time and advising that any issues raised would be followed through. Toni indicated that she had a number of concerns about patient safety relating to Dr Patel. She outlined them:

Patient Safety

- 1)
 - Concerns re what constitutes a stable patient. Oesophagectomy. Dr Patel had written in notes patient was stable but was in fact brain dead.
- 2)
 - Concerns that we were doing things outside scope of practice. When looking at transferring patient – Dr Patel threatened to resign.
 - Funding used as a threat – made \$500k for Director of Medical Services and District Manager if we couldn't guarantee to provide care he would resign. Beds in Brisbane would be booked but patients not transferred.
 - He alienated anaesthetists so that every day there was a fight in unit about management of patients.
 - Constantly denigrate ICU – describes it as third world.
- 3)
 - Dr Patel very old fashioned in types of drugs used. Nursing staff caught in middle between anaesthetists and himself.
 - Followed a nursing staff member around and kept at her, harassing her.
 - When questioned about appropriateness of complexity of surgery (eg thoracotomy) said it was something else eg wedge resection of lung and that you have to do a thoractomy anyway for this.
 - Mr Bramich - Dr Patel said wasn't sick enough to go to Brisbane – then - became too sick to go to Brisbane and patient died
 - Pericardial tap – no evidence on echo that required. Coroner's review showed traumatic damage to heart on autopsy.
 - This was final straw – 9 year old daughter watched her father die. Dr Patel screamed at patient's wife not to cry.
 - Dr Strahan visited me after Mr Bramich's death and I explained my concerns. He said he was in AMA and would talk to other doctors. He came back and said doctors had concerns but did not have enough to stick their necks out with.
 - Dr Miach said won't let Dr Patel near him nor his patients
 - Jon Joiner and I have seen Darren
 - Gail Aylmer and Robyn Pollock been to see Darren about lack of handwashing.
 - Nursing staff involved in Mr Bramich's care contacted QNU. Nurses wanted it to be a coroner's case. QNU have said that they can take it to DG or nurses could seek whistleblower status and contact HRC or CMC.

- Approached Jenny Church but said won't fill in adverse events forms.
- Saw Di Jenkin – she not filling in forms, and said “what is the point”.
- Dieter said wouldn't pursue as he might be one to lose job.
- David Risson has concerns.
- Heard second hand that Dr Patel told junior doctors not to use certain words in discharge summaries so that issues not picked up.
- Wound dehiscence – not all being reported.

I didn't want anyone to come and die in unit because he stops transferring patients.

And I think he is working outside scope of practice – Dr Miach openly questioned his qualifications and he has pushed us too far. We are working outside scope of practice.

Dr Miach said he managed situation by not allowing Dr Patel to go near his patients.

Mr Bramich – they may come back and said he would die anyway – but that isn't the point. It was about him interfering in process that would have got patient to Brisbane in the time for him to have the best chance.

Am quite happy to be proven wrong.

Want independent assurance outside of Bundaberg that right things being done.



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