

DWK 63

CONFIDENTIAL

Notes of Meeting – 2 Nov 04

Present :

Dr David Risson –PHO (PGY3) -BBH
Mr Peter Leck – DM BHSD
Dr Darren Keating – DMS BHSD

Context :

Ms Toni Hoffman NUM ICU/CCU has made a number of allegations against Dr Jayant Patel, Director of Surgery BBH, including some allegations about his clinical competence. Dr Risson was asked to provide any comment in relation to these allegations because Ms Hoffman had named him as one doctor who shared similar concerns.

Response :

Dr Risson's concerns related to transparency of the current surgical audit process conducted in the Surgical Department, where he believed there was lack of structure. He was concerned that upon cessation of use of the Otago database, there weren't reasons provided about the change or an adequate replacement put in place. He had concern (which was shared by nursing staff) about the apparent number of post-operative complications including infection.

Ms Hoffman had spoken to Dr Risson about the care of Mr Bramich but he wasn't involved in the care of this patient and couldn't comment. He did remember hearing about one case where insertion of a CVP line by Dr Patel had possibly pierced the SVC, leading to pericardial tamponade and patient death. Dr Risson was involved in getting consent for the procedure from the patients, but hadn't observed the procedure.

Dr Risson described his relationship with Dr Patel as amicable noting that he could be flighty and occasionally unpredictable. The resident staff believed that he was very severe in reprimands, particularly for minor issues.

Dr Risson had never been told to not write anything on a discharge summary and had attended a Surgical Department meeting where wound dehiscence and superficial infection had been discussed.

Dr Darren Keating
DMS

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