

**Dr Jayant Patel**

Dr Patel is a loud, brash and confident American general surgeon with over 20 years of experience in this speciality. He was recruited through Wavelength starting 1 April 2003. Review of his references show him to be a dedicated, enthusiastic general surgeon with a long distinguished record in paediatric, oncological and general surgery. He is very hard working, conscientious and enthusiastic about all aspects of his work, as evident with after-hours attendance including weekends when not on call and acceptance of teaching position with RCS. He has a strong eye for detail and attempts to provide a role model for the junior medical staff in this regard. He isn't always tolerant of individuals who aren't willing to apply themselves to their job or willing to learn. Dr Patel is prepared to confront individuals and the processes they manage, which at times make these individuals very uncomfortable and defensive.

He has willingly accepted the position of Director of Surgery taking a strong, continuing interest in surgical activity levels, outpatient and theatre schedules, increasing efficiency of outpatient and operating theatres while managing senior and junior staff to maintain team integrity and output. The working relationship developed with the other staff surgeon has been very amicable, based upon trust and respect for each other's ability. They have regularly referred patients to each other. He regularly attends all relevant meetings (inc Exec Council, ASPIC), has sort data from DQDSU and willingly expresses opinion, provides advice much of which is based upon his vast experience. Dr Patel is prepared to use his initiative to change or modify processes so as to improve efficiency, increase throughput and improve access to surgical services at BBH.

Dr Patel has directed and contributed to the efforts of the Surgical Division to dramatically decrease the number of outstanding surgical outpatient referrals. He has also contributed positively to the significant decrease in endoscopy waiting list through the use of blitzs. His effort in the direction, planning and implementation of the extra elective surgery work in FY 2004 and FY 2005 has been excellent with BHSD easily achieving the revised 2004 target.

He was the surgeon on-call during the Tilt Train incident. His performance during this period was outstanding. He arrived early, took charge and showed consistent, strong leadership throughout the management of all patients who presented to DEM. He ensured that teams and responsibilities were allocated, extra stores ordered and extra medical staff called in as required. His skills in triage were excellent and ensured that all patients were rapidly assessed and moved through DEM for further review and imaging assessment.

He was calm, realistic and able to direct a multitude of activities during a very busy time period. Dr Patel set an excellent role model for junior medical staff in DEM and on the wards during this stressful period. Thereafter he continued his normal workload, making arrangements for cover that night. His assessments were very accurate with the majority of patients discharged within his suggested timeframe.

At times, Dr Patel doesn't accept questioning by peers of his clinical judgement or decision making process. He is reported to be unwilling to discuss alternative diagnoses, options for management or accept recommendations for transfer of patients to a tertiary facility. Therefore he can be dogmatic, overbearing and viewed as very arrogant. Nevertheless I have found him to be focussed on best outcomes for the patient. He has not been argumentative or dismissive and has accepted advice readily. In any complaint related to surgical care (whether his patient or others) he has willingly been proactive in developing and implementing a solution or providing advice and made suitable arrangements for follow-up management in relation to the complaint. His follow-through and feedback have ensured that all who need to know are informed.

Dr Darren Keating  
DMS