

Ex (449)

From: Peter Leck
To: Scott, John
Date: 20/01/2005 8:41:09 am
Subject: Re: Bundaberg Director of Surgery - Dr Jay Patel

Thanks John - have discussed matter with Gerry Fitzgerald and progress is being made.

Peter

>>> John Scott 20/01/2005 8:03:58 >>>

Hi Peter
Only just got to this now - sorry.
In the new environment of QH I would suggest you make contact with Mark Waters or John Wakefield if Gerry Fitzgerald is not able to help quickly. If you can't get assistance from any of them (and I'd be surprised if you couldn't) then could you please contact me again - give me a call on 0411478453.
Thanks
John

>>> Peter Leck 01/13/05 10:39am >>>

Hi John,

Sorry we have missed each other over the last week.

I was really trying to catch up about Dr Patel, our Director of Surgery, who undertook the procedure on the 15 yo male who had initial surgery in Bundaberg and subsequently transferred to Brisbane where he had a leg amputation. You will recall that Steve Rashford raised some concerns.

I was just wanting to flag, that I actually do have some concerns about the outcomes of some of Dr Patel's surgery. Late last year I received some correspondence from a member of the nursing staff outlining a number of concerns about outcomes for patients (including some deaths). This is coloured by interpersonal conflict between Dr Patel and nursing staff - particularly in ICU.

Until the last week, my Medical Superintendent did not believe the complaints were justified and were completely driven by the personality conflict - however he has now expressed some concern although he still believes most of the issues are personality driven.

Late last year I made contact with Mark Mattiussi for advice about who could conduct a review of the concerns - and particularly of elective surgical ICU cases. My Med Super is keen not to have a professorial "boffin" from a tertiary hospital undertake such a review for fear that they might not relate to the "real" world demands of surgery in regional areas.

Mark suggested Alan Mahoney from Redcliffe. I flagged this also with Audit and Operational Review seeking some assistance for the review. They have

referred me to Gerry Fitzgerald.

Unfortunately Gerry has been away (back next week) - I was really ringing to flag this with you as I'm becoming increasingly anxious about the need for a swift review process and wasn't sure I could wait until next week to get something going (now I think that this is okay - sorry!).

A few of the nursing staff have advised that they reported the matter to the QNU before coming to management (thankfully the QNU advised them to report to us).

Peter