

LONDON CONSULTANTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING CONTENT AND BACKGROUND

Consultants are increasingly the unwitting subject of complaints and negligence actions both at the GMC and in the Courts. Some claims may be justified but the incidence of these actions has been rising inexorably over recent years and this affects not only NHS Resolution (formerly the NHS Litigation Authority), but also consultants in the private sector as professional indemnity premiums (and anxiety levels) are rising.

Some attribute this to a 'societal change' and others to a transatlantic influence with "ambulance chasing lawyers" fuelling the litigation fires. However, superimposed on this are certain high profile cases, such as that of David Sellu, which have caused a widespread reaction both in the press and in professional circles.

The 2018 Williams report "Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare" reviewed amongst other things;

- the process for investigating gross negligence manslaughter
- reflective practice of healthcare professionals
- the regulation of healthcare professionals

This report has made a number of recommendations but there remains disquiet amongst doctors about the role of the GMC, the Coroners Court, Medical Examiners (who are being piloted as reviewers of all hospital deaths) and the whole legal process, which may develop when a clinical complication/death is challenged. In addition, there is concern over the way in which defects in the hospital systems may contribute to a clinical outcome (as noted in the Bawa-Garba case) and that there is no obvious or precise definition of clinical negligence manslaughter.

This is an important meeting and the LCA welcomes our high level speakers. Sir Norman Williams and Mr Ian Stern QC, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of this major report on Gross Negligence Manslaughter will present the clinical and legal issues surrounding their report. Other leading speakers are Mr Richard Furniss, Barrister and Coroner who will review the role of the Coroners Court in this changing scene and Mr Bertie Leigh a well known solicitor from Hempsons and former Chairman of NCEPOD who will discuss the legal definition of manslaughter in a clinical setting and the impact on any claim for negligence.

This is an emotive and difficult topic, which affects all doctors.

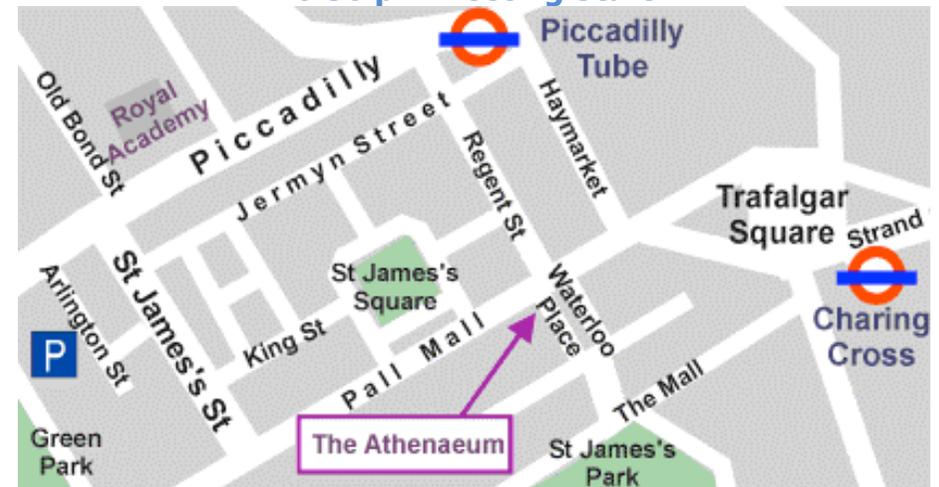


"Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare" Any need to panic?

A Meeting for Consultants
The Garden Room, The Athenaeum
107 Pall Mall, St. James's, London SW1Y 5ER

Wednesday 27th March 2019

5.45 pm Registration & Light Buffet
6.30 pm Meeting Start



This meeting is sponsored by



PROGRAMME

- 5.45 pm Registration & Light Buffet
- 6.30pm Meeting - Welcome
- 6.40pm **Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare
A Rapid Policy Review**
- Sir Norman Williams (Report Chairman)
Mr Ian Stern QC (Report Deputy Chairman)
- 7.20pm **A View from the Coroners Court**
- Mr Richard Furniss, Barrister and Coroner
- 7.40pm **Is Gross Negligence Manslaughter a special
crime fashioned for doctors?**
- Mr. Bertie Leigh, Solicitor
- 8.00pm **Panel Discussion - Q and A Session**
- 8.30pm End of Meeting

2 CPD points

REGISTRATION and QUESTIONS

In order to register please use the separate reply slip.

Questions:

What are the precise recommendations of the Williams Report on "Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare"?

What does "Gross Negligence Manslaughter" mean in the clinical context?

What is the precise legal definition of "Gross Negligence Manslaughter"?

What part does the GMC play in reviewing alleged cases of "Gross Negligence"?

What part does the Coroners Court play when there are allegations after a patient's death?

What will be the impact of the new role of Medical Examiners who will be reviewing all hospital deaths?

How should consultants reflect on their practice and how far should they record these reflections?

How does Duty of Candour affect consultants when an unexpected death occurs?

What actions should a consultant take if threatened by allegations of gross clinical negligence?

