

Being a new consultant – the challenges and opportunities

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16 April 2013



MDU

Introduction

- Leadership & Teamwork
- Resource allocation & service planning
- Risk management
- Private practice

Leadership & Teamwork

- Define your role as a Consultant
- Ensure clear lines of responsibility
- Delegate effectively
- Respect contributions of colleagues
- Support colleagues in difficulty

Case one

You are a consultant on a general medical ward. Your FY2 has been in post for 2 months and you had been impressed with his performance. The ward matron asks to speak with you about his attitude towards the nursing staff, stating that he is unhelpful when they ask him to review patients. You discuss this with him but he denies any issues. Two weeks later he fails to order a CXR for a patient, delaying a diagnosis of pneumonia. He has also started turning up late for ward rounds and clinics. Your registrar thinks he smells of alcohol on occasion. What do you do?

Resource allocation & service planning

- Make the care of your patient the first concern
- Requirement to use resources effectively
- Be familiar with local and national policies
- Raise concerns if you believe that patients are at risk due to inadequate resources, policies or systems

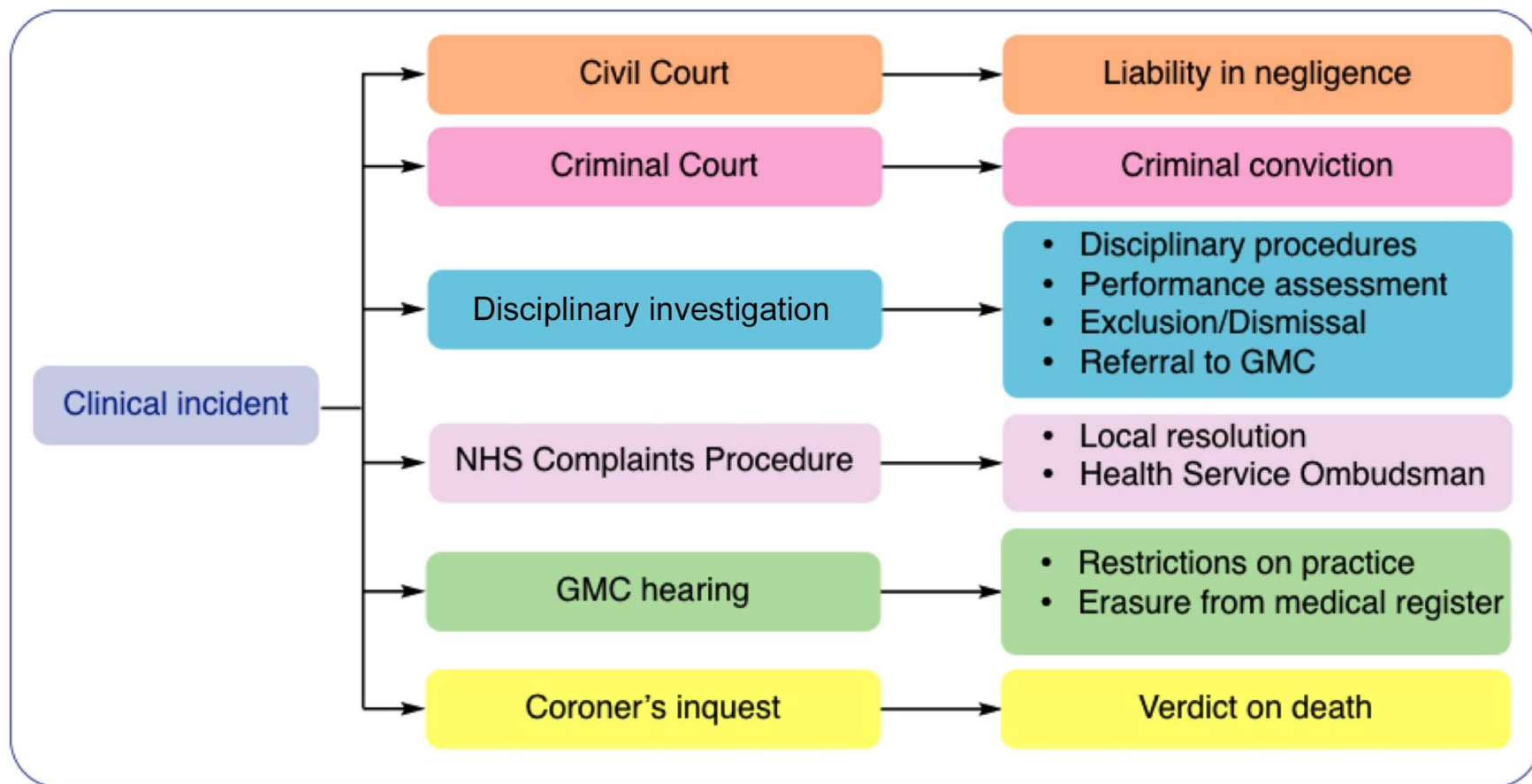
Risk management

- Aim to identify and mitigate risks
- Consider common areas: Clinical
Communication
Confidentiality
Consent
- Be familiar with actions required of you when something does go wrong

Case 2

You are the consultant in charge of a 69y female diagnosed with a PE. She has been started on warfarin treatment. You review her on your ward round and agree she can be discharged when her INR is stable. Before she is sent home your FY1 prescribes her some Metronidazole for a dental infection. She falls at home 3 days later and bangs her head. Her GP checks her INR and finds it is very high. She becomes confused is re-admitted. She is diagnosed with a subdural haematoma and later dies. What are the possible consequences?

Multiple jeopardy



Private practice 1

- Professional indemnity
- Consider the scope of your work
- Be honest about financial arrangements
- Be alert to conflicts of interest

Private practice 2

- Advertising
- CQC registration
- Data Protection Act 1998 and medical records
- Expert witness work

Conclusion

- Good communication is key
- Consider carefully the new tasks required of you
- Keep careful notes
- If unsure seek early advice
- MDU course for new consultants

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