

Bradley, Andrew

From: Andrew Wilcock
Sent: 21 January 2009 10:56
To: Bradley, Andrew
Subject: inquest

Code A

Dear Mr Bradley

Thank you for your letter of 20th January.

Naturally it is a reasonable question - am I the right man for the job?

My clinical experience is within specialist palliative care looking after (often elderly) patients with cancer. I believe I was approached by the police because of the extensive experience of the use of opioids and other symptom relieving drugs in palliative care, particularly in those patients who are dying. My remit also extended to commenting on if I considered the care of the patients to have fallen short of the standards of professional bodies. As such I took the GMC as the main lead.

If your investigation is to work with a 'real world/coal face' view rather than the 'ideal', and to identify what can be reasonably expected to occur in geriatric care settings such as a community hospital, then I have no recent clinical experience of this. This would be readily quite apparent. In this regard, the opinion of your geriatrician witness could well be seen as more credible by all parties.

Does this answer help you in your deliberations?

Kind regards
Andrew

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