Complaints, litigation and malpractice: how to survive as a psychiatrist

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Abstract

This informal user-friendly highly interactive course is aimed at addressing the ever-increasing tide of complaints and litigation faced by psychiatrists in their daily clinical work. All content is designed for an international audience working in a variety of different legal and regulatory environments. The course will provide a broad overview of the context, including data on complaints and litigation. We will then examine in greater detail the areas of medical error, complaints, litigation and medical misconduct. Discussion will highlight the situations and actions that more commonly lead to concern. There will be a focus throughout on actual real-life cases.

We will explore the theory and practice of the prevention and minimization of the number and severity of adverse events in psychiatry. This will include looking at practical tips for individual practice as well as the gains that can be achieved by a systems approach to reducing medical error.

This course aims to help improve the confidence and skills of participants in dealing with adverse events such as complaints and litigation, and also enhance participant’s ability to prevent things going wrong in the first place.