

Medical Integrity Comes Under Scrutiny

By Kirsten Hieghton-Jackson

Medical integrity on Guernsey has recently come into question after cardiologist Dr Dean Patterson faced backlash for advocating on behalf of his patients who suffered medically induced injuries. Dr Patterson is currently fighting a suspension from the General Medical Council after being voted out of the local Medical Specialist Group partnership after raising patient safety concerns.

Public trust in medicine relies on the ethical foundations that guide patient care, which include medical integrity, an effort to ‘do no harm,’ and obtaining informed consent (which involves on-going dialogue, not just a quick signature). One of the greatest frustrations medically injured patients face is having their concerns dismissed. Thus, physicians who remain steadfast in advocating for them (even in the face of controversy and institutional pressure) deserve recognition and commendation rather than criticism. Doctors who carefully investigate patient complaints, diligently flag adverse events, and request autopsies when patients may have died from a medical treatment (as Dr Patterson did) embody the profession’s ideals, yet they face reputational harm and even job loss.

When a new vaccine without long-term safety data is deployed under temporary authorisation, then the reporting of adverse reactions ought to be especially accessible and transparent. Informed consent cannot fully be obtained in this scenario as long-term clinical trials have not yet been completed. If the government advocates for such a pharmaceutical, doctors must be able to report adverse events without fear of retribution. You may ask yourself, ‘how could it possibly be otherwise?’ But the worrisome reality is that financial incentives and self-protectionism drive institutional pressures even in the face of scientific evidence.

How can we, as an ethical society, let our doctors lose their livelihoods for having advocated for us? If we value patient-centred care, we should all rally behind local cardiologist Dr Dean Patterson, whose career has come into question after he witnessed some of his patients suffer adverse reactions from the m-RNA COVID-19 vaccine. Having medical integrity requires that practitioners like Dr Patterson place individual patient welfare above politics and financial incentives, but at what cost to their careers, personal lives, and families?

To learn more about Dr Patterson’s case, you may listen to Doc Malik’s interview of Dr Patterson here on Substack: <https://docmalik.substack.com/p/covid-dissident-cardiologist-facing>

If you were either a patient or colleague of Dr Patterson and you wish to advocate for him, please email your letter of support with your full name to:

testimonials.dean@tutamail.com

You may contribute to the discussion on Guernsey around reporting medical injuries by contacting the Complaints and Learning Working Group in Health & Social Care, which launched a public and professional listening exercise this past week. Their aim is to enhance fairness in the Health & Social Care complaints process. Join in group discussions by emailing panel@carewatch.gg, or visit www.carewatch.gg to submit anonymously or contact Citizens Advice.

References:

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