

St Thomas Training Newsletter - June 2014

We hope you find lots to interest you in this month's newsletter.

We are always pleased to hear from you – feel free to comment on any item here, or ask questions, by replying directly to this email, or by using Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter (links at the bottom of the page).

Department of Health responds to House of Lords MCA/DoLS report

As we're sure you recall, the [House of Lords Select Committee published its report](#) into the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards on 19th March. In a nutshell the report said that major changes were needed, especially to DoLS, to ensure that the legislation is implemented as intended.

The [Department of Health issued its response to the report on 11th June](#). We think there's going to be a huge argument in the upper echelons of Parliament, because the report pretty much refutes the House of Lords Committee's criticisms, saying really that only minor tinkering is needed to put everything back on track. Watch this space ...

Doctors must consult patients about DNR decisions

The Appeal Court recently told a hospital in Cambridge that it had acted unlawfully in deciding putting a "Do Not Resuscitate" notice in a patient's file without consulting her first. [The patient, Janet Tracey, had clearly told her doctors that she wanted to be consulted about her treatment, but they ignored this](#). The ruling should come as no surprise to anyone who understands the Mental Capacity Act. Not consulting the patient quite clearly breaches Principles 1, 2 and 3 of the Act.

NICE guidance on managing medicines in care homes

NICE has issued new guidance on managing medicines in care homes. [It is accompanied by a checklist](#) which they recommend that you use.

Orchid View Serious Case Review has been published

If you have attended any of our Safeguarding Adults training over the past few months you may well have discussed the dreadful events at Orchid View Nursing Home in West Sussex. Several elderly residents died as a result of neglect and poor quality care. Examples included dressing a wound with Sellotape, and being given an overdose of Warfarin. The Serious Case Review was published earlier this month, and we urge you to read it and learn from it. [Click here to read a copy of the report, alongside the CQC's response \(scroll down to the bottom of the page\).](#)

Assisted suicide ruling due shortly

Our training in the Mental Capacity Act, and in Dealing with Suicide and Self Harm, often covers the case of [Tony Nicklinson, the man with locked-in syndrome, who asked the Court to legalise assisted suicide](#). The case has gone all the way to the UK Supreme Court, despite the fact that Mr Nicklinson did die in August 2012. The Supreme Court is due to issue its judgement in the case in the next couple of weeks, and it's sure to generate much publicity, whichever way it goes.

Forced marriage is now a criminal offence in England and Wales

[Forcing someone into a marriage against their will became a criminal offence in England and Wales on 16th June](#), punishable by up to 7 years in prison. Whilst the most common type of forced marriage involves parents and their school-age children, the term can also apply to adults who lack the capacity to marry.

Female genital mutilation helpline launched by NSPCC

The NSPCC says around 70 women and girls (the youngest just 7 years old) seek treatment for FGM in the UK every month. They have launched a new helpline on **0800 028 3550** (or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk). [There is lots more information and advice on their website here](#), including in informative (and harrowing) video clip. Please do your bit to raise awareness of this helpline.

Training in Working with People who have a Personality Disorder

This topic has proved hugely popular over the last few months. Our materials have been reviewed by an "Expert by Experience" and we offer a thorough insight into personality disorders and how to work with someone who has one. We come to you, and deliver the training at your venue. [Click here for more information, or just give us a call.](#)

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