

Dr. Kelly: Outlined the reasons for interview related to comments in a complaint letter from Dr. Ashgar. Explained the background incident review but that the main purpose of meeting was to test the validity of the comments made by Dr. Ashgar. Dr. Kelly proceeded to ask Dr. Malik to outline the events after the death of L.C.

Dr. Malik: Dr. Malik explained how he had been called by Dr. O'Donohoe (Monday) to discuss the L.C. case. It was clear to Dr. Malik that Dr. O'Donohoe was upset by the death. Dr. O'Donohoe explained that there would be an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death. This might lead to outside review of the case by the College of Paediatricians and may even lead to a court case. Dr. Malik was advised that as the SHO directly involved he may need to contact the BMA and should consider seeking support from colleagues. Dr. Malik was asked had he any close friends among the doctors he could talk with and in particular if anyone from the same cultural or national background would be available to provide support.

Dr. Kelly: Where you placed under threat, duress or in any way intimidated at this stage by Dr. O'Donohoe?

Dr. Malik: No. Both of us were in a state of distress but I view the episode as one of support from Dr. O'Donohoe.

Dr. Kelly: What were the circumstances relating to the prescription of fluids?

Dr. Malik: I decided that L.C. was not drinking sufficiently and needed IV fluids. I was not able to erect a drip and therefore contacted Dr. O'Donohoe. He was great. He was calm and applied the cream (emla), relaxed in the office with staff while it took effect, and then proceeded to insert the IV line.

Dr. Kelly: Who then prescribed the IV fluid regime?

Dr. Malik: I signed the blank sheet when preparing the IV cannulation but I was then busy with three other admissions. I did not fill out the fluid regime.

Dr. Kelly: Is it common practice to sign a blank form?

Dr. Malik: Sometimes if you're busy with other patients it happens.

Dr. Kelly: Did Dr. O'Donohoe ask you to change your signature or the prescribing of fluids. Were you intimidated to do anything?

Dr. Malik: Dr. O'Donohoe told me that people might say the responsibility lies with me (Dr. Malik). Dr. O'Donohoe explained that he would not let that happen – the ultimate responsibility lies with the consultant. Dr. O'Donohoe did not tell me to write anything or indicate any specific changes to make. He did however offer the notes if I wanted to add any new comments.

Dr. Kelly: You realise that would be inappropriate?

Dr. Malik: I did not add or alter any part of the notes.

Dr. Kelly then shared the exact wording of Dr. Asghar's comments.

Dr. Malik: It is unfortunate that Dr. Ashgar has misrepresented my words. Dr. O'Donohoe at no time harassed or intimidated me. My working relationship with Dr. O'Donohoe is excellent and I have greatly enjoyed the job. I even stayed on an extra six months.

Dr. Kelly closed the meeting by thanking Dr. Malik and making him aware that an outside paediatric opinion may wish to discuss the matter further at a later stage. Dr. Kelly also alerted Dr. Malik to the possibility of legal action and that Dr. O'Donohoe's advice of talking to BMA etc was appropriate.