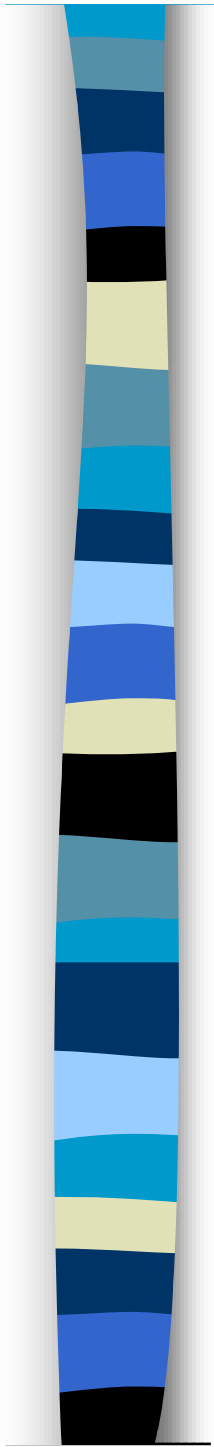


Some Medicolegal Pointers

■ Anil Sharma

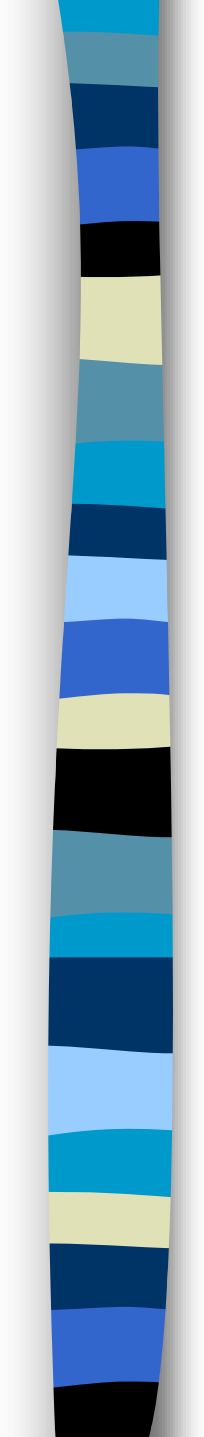
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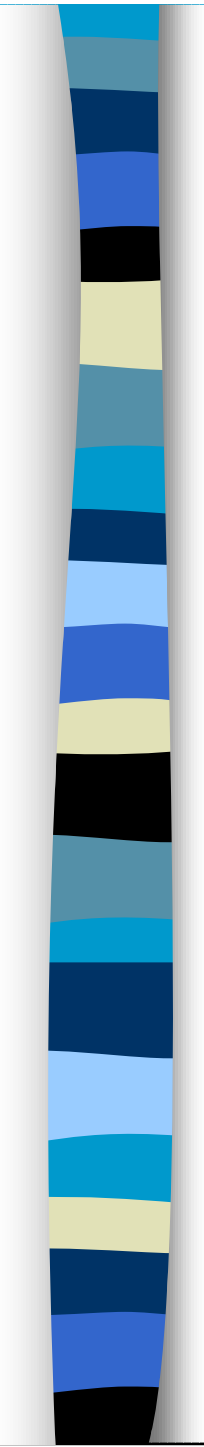
Background re Medicolegal

- Day release LLM
- HDC cases; the good, bad, ugly
- HDC and phone calls in general
- HPDT
- Lawyers
- MPS
- The Media



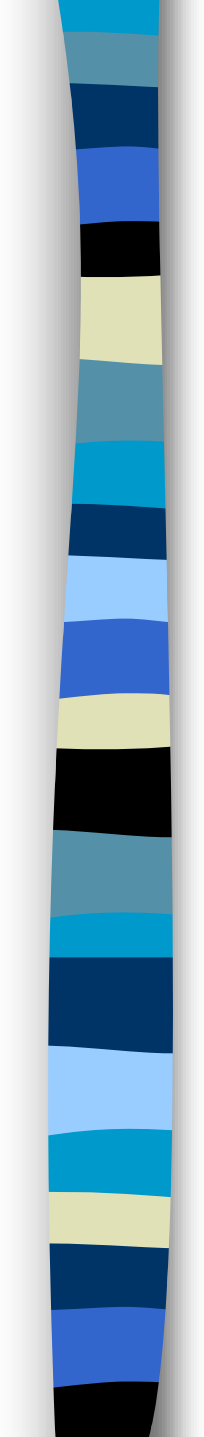
‘No fault’ scheme....ACC

- Accidents sorted by the state
- The right to sue only if falls outside scheme
- Or exemplary damages if severe negligence



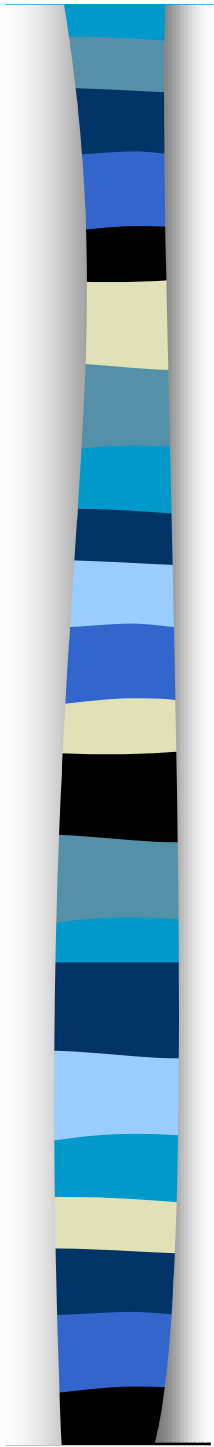
HDC Code of Rights

- ..treat with respect.
- No discrimination.
- Help them live dignified, independent lives.
- ...reasonable care and skill in treating.
- Listen, give info in a way they can understand and that makes them comfortable to ask questions if they don't understand.
- Discuss benefits, risks, alternatives, costs.
- can make own decisions about treatment and change their mind
- support person if they wish.
- All these rights apply if consumers are asked to take part in research or teaching.
- right to make complaints and to be taken seriously.



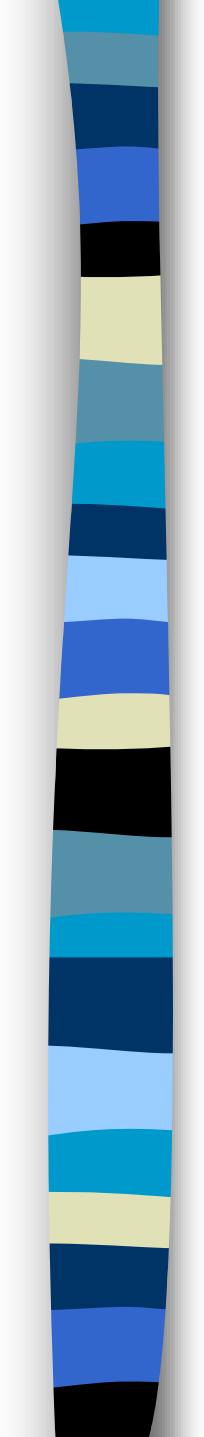
Record Keeping

- Write legibly- concise, relevant and legible is better than long-winded and indecipherable.
- Include the date and time- the case may come to light many years later.
- Sign and print your name at every entry.
- Try and avoid abbreviations e.g. PID, LAP, AMA, FLK, NFB, TTFO ESAD.
- Do not 'doctor' notes! 'still holds bottle' was found to be 'silly old bat'. Avoid personal comments.
- If you amend things write 'retrospective note and date etc'
- Don't alter electronic records if your system lets you.
- Check your letters as they may not read as you thought.
- Keep the MPS / other insurer's phone numbers handy.



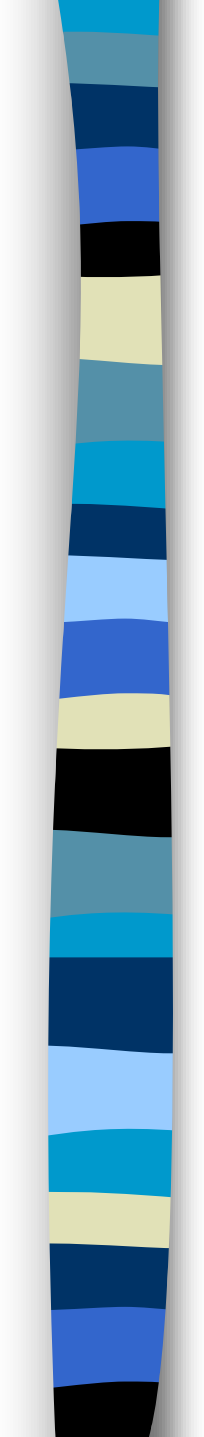
Keeping Patients on Side

- Front of House
- Professional Environment
- Interpersonal Skills
- Timekeeping
- When Things Go Wrong



When Things Go Wrong

- See patient + support person
- Apologise
- Document everything in detail
- See again as necessary / follow-up
- Offer the transfer of care?
- Speak to the MPS



Collegiality

- How should you criticize colleagues?
- If he / she is 'dangerous' you should go through the process officially and responsibly
- The patient will almost always pass on your criticisms to the doc anyway plus more
- Remember no one is perfect
- Ego for short term gain only

I have opinions of my own, strong opinions, but I don't always agree with them.

George W Bush



Thank you.

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