

# Healthcare records on trial- Will your records stand up to scrutiny? **Lawfile**



**A one day course designed by Andrew Andrews, a leading Health Service Lawyer with over 30 years experience and also a Director of Bond Solon's medico legal group teaching the essential skills for producing first class healthcare records - records that stand up to scrutiny in the witness box.**

## Overview

All healthcare professionals produce records in the course of their work. These records may be used as evidence in legal cases. If they do not stand up to scrutiny, the maker of the record and the employer can be in great difficulty. Records will be reviewed in courts, at inquests, tribunals and professional committees. All too often they fall short of required professional and evidential standards.

## Course Objectives

The objective of the training is to illustrate the importance of records in legal proceedings, and how to keep them to the correct professional and evidential standards. With strong, accurate records claims can be challenged effectively. If a claim continues they will provide first class evidence in all legal fora and the training will provide guidance on dealing with fierce cross-examination and questioning. This training will have an impact on clinical and non-clinical issues and is designed with a view to minimising risk of exposure to claims.

## The Training

Healthcare Records on Trial will help you to produce professional records which will enhance your credibility as a witness. The trainer will lead practical courtroom exercises to show you how important good records are in the witness box. The day includes lectures on good record keeping and accountability. There are led discussions on effective witness presentation, practical exercises on producing records and then realistic cross examination in the witness box on the records produced on the day. There is much practical information together with handouts to take away and use. The training day is designed as a one day course which can be held in-house.

## Clinical Negligence - the cost

The National Audit Office reported that clinical negligence claims against the NHS had increased to £5.25 billion in March 2002 up from £4.4 billion in March 2001 – an increase of £850 million.

## Key learning points:

- ◆ The importance of good record keeping
- ◆ How records stand up to cross examination
- ◆ How opposing lawyers look at your records
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Cross examination techniques
- ◆ How to be confident in the witness box
- ◆ How good records can save you going to court
- ◆ Preparing for court and going to court

## About Lawfile

Lawfile is a new company set up to provide quality legal information to the legal community and to law students via the Internet. A percentage of all profits made by Lawfile are set aside to pay for legal scholarships for underprivileged students who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend university to study law. Lawfile also has its own online law journal "Obiter" which is published four times each year and carries articles on different aspects of law. These articles are of interest to practitioners worldwide. The training we provide is intensive, highly practical and experiential. Balancing the essential legal knowledge and material with interactive training and discussion.

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