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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Towards Integrating Ethics into the UK Regulatory Framework

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

In order to have an impact at the level of individual patient care clinical ethic services need to engage with the wider organizational and regulatory framework of health care both locally and nationally. Indeed, these frameworks can serve as part of the argument for clinical ethics services. In the United States The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requires hospitals to have a mechanism for addressing ethical issues. Accreditation Canada, on the other hand, includes standards that Canadian clinical ethicists have interpreted along ethical lines, for instance, the requirement for formal procedures for addressing organizational issues.

In the UK quality standards have not been central to the development or support of Clinical Ethics Committees (CEC). But as the number of these committees grows in the UK so too does the need to justify their value. In this paper we provide an ethical interpretation of the core quality standards for Acute Trusts (hospitals) provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC regulates all health and adult social care services in England. We begin with an assessment of their standards for Acute Trusts because this is where most UK CECs are located. In our paper we will first identify those CQC standards that contain ethical content and then suggest ways that UK CECs might help Trusts meet those needs. Nonetheless, clinical ethics services do not exist simply to fulfill regulatory demands. Thus we will conclude by discussing how these standards may be revised to promote ethics at all levels of a Trust.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

SLOWTHER, A., MCMILLAN, J. (2002) The Development of Healthcare (Clinical) Ethics Committees in the U.K. HEC Forum, 14, 1-3.

SLOWTHER, A., BUNCH, C., WOOLNOUGH, B. & HOPE, T. (2001) Clinical ethics support services in the UK: an investigation of the current provision of ethics support to health professionals in the UK. J Med Ethics, 27 Suppl 1, i2-8.

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Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No