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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: UK hospital consultants' perception of clinical ethics support

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Until recently there was no formally established clinical ethics committee (CEC) at Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust UK (GSTT). In 2008 an online questionnaire survey of consultants at GSTT aimed to find out:

- The frequency with which ethical dilemmas were experienced
- How ethical dilemmas were dealt with by consultants
- Whether there was a perceived need for a form of clinical ethics support
- The most popular form of ethics support
- The reasons for, and barriers to using a form of ethics support.

Seventy nine consultants responded to the questionnaire. 63% said that they encountered an ethical dilemma which they felt they needed help with at least monthly. 83% of respondents said the last time they encountered such a dilemma they discussed it with colleagues. Of those, 94% said that they were happy that the ethical dilemma was satisfactorily resolved. Nevertheless, 80% of respondents said that they would find a form of ethics support within the Trust to be useful, although some respondents were very critical of the idea.

Rapid response and support within a specialty were the preferred forms for clinical ethics support. Many commented on the importance of a timely response, some respondents questioned the authority and

role of a clinical ethics support group. A Clinical Ethics Advisory Group has now been established at GSTT.

- Methods of resolving clinical ethics dilemmas in the absence of a CEC
- Preferred form of ethics support
- Barriers to using ethic support

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

I will submit an article to Clinical Ethics for publication

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

Yes No