

MEDICO LEGAL CASES

Group 2:

Dr. Arun Kumar C.

Dr. Ravi K.S.

Ms. Kanika

Mr. Santosh

Major. Raghunandhan Hegde (Retd)

Reviewed By :

Dr. Lallu Joseph

Dr. Uma Shankar

Ms. Jyothi Ramesh

MEDICO LEGAL CASES

Medico Legal Cases have become an integral part of modern day practice that is frequently encountered by medical practitioners and hospital staff.

All medical personnel working in hospital both clinical and non clinical will encounter medico legal issues which should be handled in accordance with the law of land.

MEDICO LEGAL CASES - DEFINITION

- A medical case with legal implications for the attending doctor where the attending doctor after eliciting history and examining the patient thinks that some investigations by law enforcement agencies is essential.

WHY MLC MANAGEMENT IS NEEDED

- ❖ MLCs are just as non MLC sick / injured patients and the doctor is duty bound to treat as well as document the details.
- ❖ It is a crucial piece of evidence.
- ❖ Responsibility to label any case as an MLC rests solely with the treating doctor.

MEDICO LEGAL CASES – AS OBSERVED FREQUENTLY

- ❖ RTA – Road traffic accidents
- ❖ Homicide or suicide
- ❖ Assault
- ❖ Burns
- ❖ Animal Bites
- ❖ Referred cases from court
- ❖ Brought dead
- ❖ Grievous injury or foul play suspected
- ❖ Mass food poisoning
- ❖ Criminal abortions

PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN MLC

- ❖ Treating Doctor/ Duty Doctor
- ❖ CMO / RMO (Casualty / Resident Medical Officer)
- ❖ Emergency Department
- ❖ Medical records Section
- ❖ Police Investigating Officer (Just to inform)
- ❖ Hospital Administration

CRUCIAL STEPS

- ❖ MLC should be registered.
- ❖ All columns to be filled in the MLR
- ❖ No time limit for preparing Medical legal register
- ❖ Documentation of at least two identification marks and ID proof.

CONTENT OF MLC RECORDS

- Date & Time of Admission
- MLC Number
- Clinical Finding
- History if available
- Collection and Preservation of Samples
- Investigations
- Treatment given
- Progress of the patient
- Date & time of Surgery if applicable
- Complications if any
- Final Diagnosis
- Medication Details
- Transfer Records in case of transfer to a higher centre
- Signature of the treating doctor with Regn Number

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ❖ Resuscitation and stabilization of the patient will be carried out first.
- ❖ MLC Formalities should be carried out subsequently.
- ❖ MLC register and intimation book should be maintained in Emergency department
- ❖ Police should be informed under section 39 CPC.
- ❖ Medico Legal documents should be considered as confidential records and should be stored under safe custody.

TRAINING

- ❖ Staff Training at hospital level is recommended once in 03 months
- ❖ Duration of training can be from 2 – 3 hours
- ❖ Reasons for frequent training
 - ❖ Frequent change of staff in small towns – high rate of attrition
 - ❖ Reinforce the learning
 - ❖ Training in small batches so that more attention can be given and eventually every staff is trained in MLC procedures

TRAINING - MODULES

- ❖ Doctors & Nurses working in emergency department, DMO/RMOs shall be trained once in 03 months for a duration of 3 hours with following as content
 - ❖ Preparing the MLC register and filling the details
 - ❖ MLC intimation to police
 - ❖ Counselling of patient/ party
- ❖ Staff working in emergency department, MRD, Administration shall be trained once in 03 months for a duration of 3 hours with following as content
 - ❖ Maintenance of documents
 - ❖ Intimating the details to duty doctors and to police

Thank you !!!