



PRESS RELEASE

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The Gibraltar Health Authority and Unite Union have jointly produced a series of Medico-Legal training seminars for GHA staff. This initiative followed an approach by the Union to the Health Minister, Yvette Del Agua, after its members expressed an interest in Medico-Legal issues pertaining to professional nursing practice. A joint working group was set up in order to identify relevant topics, plan the workshops, and publicise them to achieve maximum attendance. The following topics were selected for the seminars:

Documentation and Professional Accountability, led by Susan Rhoda, Practice Development Sister GHA, and Stephen Catania, Attias & Levy lawyer and Chairman of the Nurses Registration Board.

Patient Consent to Treatment – Ernest Lima, Director of Finance GHA, and Gillian Guzman, Hassans lawyer.

Data Protection and Confidentiality – Eddie Holmes, Deputy Director of Nursing GHA, and Maurice Hook, Data Protection Compliance Manager, Gibraltar Regulatory Authority.

The first series of seminars have already taken place and have proved extremely popular with staff. Further seminars will be held through March and April and other groups of staff have now requested further sessions.

Health Minister, Yvette Del Agua has said: “I am delighted that the GHA and Unite Union are working so well together in maintaining and improving professional nursing practice. I am confident that the benefit of these informative seminars will be reaped by both staff and patients alike”.

Louis Gonzalez, Convenor for Unite Union said: “The TGWU section of Unite sees this as a positive development in a partnership to ensure clinical excellence within the GHA. We hope this will be the first of many such joint ventures where both Management and the Union can continue to develop a good working relationship in the interests of both patients and staff. The Union will continue to respond positively to all constructive measures undertaken by Management”.

Note for the editors: The press are invited to the next seminar which will take place on Wednesday 8th April 2009 at the School of Health Studies in St Bernard's Hospital in the Lecture Room on the 6th Floor at 2.30 pm.