TRANSPARENCY & RISK

STEVE BOLSIN
SPECIALIST ANAESTHETIST, UHG BARWON HEALTH, GEELONG
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?


- Cancer: 585k
- Heart disease: 611k
- Motor vehicles: 34k
- COPD: 149k
- Firearms: 34k
- Suicide: 41k
- Medical error: 251k

Based on our estimate, medical error is the 3rd most common cause of death in the US.

However, we’re not even counting this - medical error is not recorded on US death certificates.

Data source:
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/nvss64/nvss64_02.pdf

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TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

What makes health care safe?

- Regulation, Accreditation, Professionalism, Honesty etc

Who makes health care safe?

- Doctors, Nurses, DHHS, APHRA, RACS, Managers, Courts etc

What makes health care unsafe?

- Doctors, Nurses, DHHS, APHRA, RACS, Managers, Courts etc

Who has responsibility for safety?

- Doctors, Nurses, DHHS, APHRA, RACS, Managers, Courts etc
What goes here?

TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Performance Monitoring
New York state
• 40% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.
New Hampshire
• 28% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.
California
• Reduction in complications in <1 year.
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Performance Monitoring

New York state
• 40% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.

New Hampshire
• 28% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.

California
• Reduction in complications in <1 year
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Poor Performance Monitoring

New York state
• 40% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.

New Hampshire
• 28% reduction in risk-adjusted mortality in 3 years.

California
• Reduction in complications in <1 year.
Honesty in medicine

Risk Management: Extreme honesty may be the best policy
Steve Kramman and Ham V.

Results
• Alignment of reduced legal costs with early open disclosure
• Policy for 19 years; 1st 3 years increased costs, next 16 costs fell

Criticism
• It was a VA hospital not a major teaching hospital
• It wasn’t a prospective study
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

University of Michigan Risk Management Program

- Annual litigation costs: $1 Million vs. $3 Million
- Average time to resolution of claims and lawsuits: 9.5 Months vs. 20.7 Months
- No. of claims and lawsuits: 114 vs. 262
Honesty in medicine
Clinton H., Obama B.
New England Journal of Medicine
Patient Safety the Centrepiece of Medical Liability Reform
• Reduced legal costs over 4 years
• Not a Veterans Affairs hospital
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Fiduciary disclosure of medical mistakes: the duty to promptly notify patients of adverse health care events.


• Expands on current fiduciary duties of doctors
• Outlines an improved standard of behaviour
• May conflict with insurance practice
• Is likely to lead to reduced future legal costs

• Compare with “Duty of Candour” Robert Francis after Mid Staffs Inquiry
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Turning attention to clinician engagement in Victoria

Christine Jorm MBBS(Hons), MD, PhD Honorary Associate Professor

Robyn Hudson BSc(Psych), BAppSc(Phty), MBA

Director Clinicians as Partners

Euan Wallace AM MBChB, MD, Chief Executive

Sydney University and Safer Care Victoria

Setting the agenda; informing clinicians; involving clinicians; empowering clinicians.
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Clinical engagement: a new concept or common sense all round?

*Australian Health Review* (published online 19th July 2018)

Stephen Bolsin BSc, MBBS, MHSM, FRCA, FANZCA, MRACMA, Medical Adviser

Jenny Carter RN BA Applied Science, Grad Dip Health Administration, Manager Quality and Clinical Risk Unit

Aileen Kitson RGN MBA, Manager Quality and Clinical Risk Unit

Donna Walter RGN, BSc, Grad Cert BM, Director of Nursing

Stephen Roberts BBus, BHA, MBA, Chief Executive Officer

St John of God Geelong Hospital, Myers St, Geelong, Victoria 3220
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Clinical engagement: a new concept or common sense all round?

Clinical engagement is the %age patients receiving guideline complaint treatment

St John of God Geelong Prophylactic Antimicrobial prescribing & delivery

LSCS – 98%

Abdominal wall surgery – 96%

Bowel surgery – 54% (Targeted review – revised guidelines)

Planned compliance studies

Oral medications in ACS

AM prescribing & delivery – DVT Prophylaxis; Febrile neutropenia; CA pneumonia.
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

No more stories!
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?

Mortality at Bristol
Mortality for 11 centres combined
Total number of procedures for 11 centres combined

Spiegelhalter D, Aylin P et al.
LANCET 2003
TRANSPARENCY OR HONESTY?