

SASOG MEDICO LEGAL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING WITH DR G HOWARTH
(MPS)

SANDTON MEDI CLINIC 24 MARCH 2011.

PRESENT: Prof Leon Snyman (SASOG).
Prof Alan Alperstein via telephone link (SASOG)
Dr Peter Koll (SASOG)
Dr G Howarth (MPS).

Dr Ron White was asked to organise a venue and represent Prof Bash Goolab who was not available to attend.

Prof Snyman (chairperson) opened the meeting thanking Dr Howarth for meeting with SASOG.

Dr Howarth outlined the extent of the problem and then there was open discussion amongst those present.

This is a summary of the above.

1. Prof Snyman emphasised this is a SASOG responsibility.
2. Dr Howarth: Number of claims has increased by 30% which is reasonable BUT the claim values have increased by 300%.
3. High value claims in excess of R1M now account for 22% of claims.
4. The "top" claims in RSA are – Delayed C/S No CTG monitoring. CP child.

Failed forceps, delayed C/S, CP child.

"Abnormal" forceps delivery, CP child.

Difficult instrument delivery, child severely brain damaged.

Highest claims settled

Missed sacrogenesis.

No ante natal screening.

Poor monitoring.

5. Globally 4% of members account for 50% of claims.
6. There is a disproportionate financial risk for the Government at present regarding the huge amount of litigation against the public sector.
7. We cannot ask the media for help, they are hostile to the medical profession and cannot be relied on to give a balanced view.
8. Prof Alperstein asked how many members of SASOG are members of MPS.
9. Dr Peter Koll feels very strongly that the so called high C/S rate be defended and that patients sign a consent form for vaginal delivery.

10. All sectors of the medical field are at risk of litigation. COG (SA) for qualifying, Universities for inadequate training of, Hospitals for employing and even the HPCSA for not monitoring an incompetent Dr.

CONCLUSION

It was decided to ask the President of SASOG to communicate with the MOH requesting the “capping” of claims as was done with the Road Accident Fund.

Prof Howarth will provide any help needed .

The body responsible for the situation with the Road Accident Fund can be contacted and asked for guidance.

Other bodies, Health Funders, Hospital Groups and even the Colleges and Universities be involved if necessary.

Contacts.

Dr Graham Howarth : graham.howarth@mps.org.uk

Prof Tony Koller: koller: @mweb.co.za

Prof Leon Snyman: leon.snyman@up.ac.za

Prof Alan Alperstein: alan@kingsburyhouse.co.za

Prof B Goolab : bgoolab@iafrica.com

Dr Peter Koll: peter@koll.co.za

(Dr Ron White); ronwhit@mweb.co.za