

November 2012

## **WELCOME TO OUR LATEST UPDATE ON ISSUES CONCERNING PATIENT SAFETY AND JUSTICE**

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### **MARKING 30 YEARS' FIGHTING FOR PATIENT SAFETY AND JUSTICE**

2012-2013 is AvMA's 30th anniversary, and two of the ways we are marking it are holding our [30th Anniversary Gala Celebration](#) in London on November 23rd, where over 300 people will gather to celebrate not only AvMA's work, but others' too. We will be announcing winners of awards for outstanding contributions to patient safety and justice. (Thank you to those who have sent in nominations). A limited number of places are still available for the Gala Celebration. These are priced so as to raise money for the charity, but if this is a barrier to any fervant AvMA supporters who want to attend, please speak to us as some of our sponsors may have free places to offer.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN YOUR VERY OWN PICASSO, DALI OR MATISSE?**

AvMA has received a generous donation of art works to auction at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala from the Broad Gallery in Islington.

The works have been donated at cost so any bids above the minimum bid price will raise much needed funds for AvMA. There are drawings and lithographs from Picasso, Dali, Chagall, Miro and Matisse. For full details click [here](#). There will be one live auction of an early Matisse on the night and nine further works in our silent auction. You can make a bid for the items even if you are unable to attend on the night. Make a bid by e-mail for each work you want and if you are the highest bidder you win. Please tell your friends and any art lovers about this fantastic opportunity!

If you are unable to attend the AvMA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November but would like to make a bid for one of our art works in the silent auction: select which work(s) you wish to bid for from this [list](#) and e-mail Philip Walker [philipwalker@avma.org.uk](mailto:philipwalker@avma.org.uk) at AvMA with your bid amount. Philip will confirm your bid via return e-mail and after the 23<sup>rd</sup> November Philip will contact all bidders to confirm if they have won or not. Any questions e-mail Philip or contact him on 020 8688 9555

## **DOUBLE THE VALUE OF YOUR DONATION!**

We are delighted to announce that AvMA has been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the Big Give Challenge 2012. If you donate to AvMA online between 6th and 19th December the value of your donation will be doubled! Help us make the most of this unique opportunity! Click [here](#) for more details.

## **CAMPAIGNING SUCCESS - THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all those who supported AvMA's campaign and who signed the petition calling for the dropping of controversial plans by the Ministry of Justice to rob 25% of the general damages awarded to babies brain damaged through clinical negligence in Legal Aid cases. IT WORKED! We are glad to inform you this outrageous plan has now been dropped!

## **AvMA SUBMISSIONS RE SAFETY IN THE NEW SYSTEM**

AvMA has made submissions to two recent consultations by the Department of Health, calling for important changes or additions to the plans for the reformed NHS in England. To see AvMA's response to "Ensuring Quality in the New Health System" click [here](#). To see our response to consultation on the draft mandate for the NHS Commissioning Board click [here](#).

## **NO "APOLOGIES BILL" WITHOUT A "DUTY OF CANDOUR"**

AvMA has responded to a Scottish consultation on a proposed "Apologies Bill" which would spell out that apologies are not an admission of liability and make certain apologies inadmissible in court. Whilst welcoming the intentions, AvMA point out that such a provision could have unintended consequences and should not go ahead without a corresponding "Duty of Candour" with patients/relatives when things go wrong. To see AvMA's response click [here](#).

## **BETTER REGULATION OF COSMETIC TREATMENTS**

AvMA has submitted evidence to the Department of Health review of the regulation of cosmetic treatments. AvMA is calling for statutory regulation of treatments like Botox, dermal fillers, and laser treatments. AvMA has also made proposals for an indemnity guarantee for patients harmed by any regulated health treatment or implants/devices and an independent service to help with private sector complaints. To see AvMA's submission click [here](#).

## **HOSPITAL SERVICES STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT**

A new report by the Royal College of Physicians '[Hospitals on the Edge?](#)' paints a worrying picture of under resourced hospitals struggling to cope with rising demand. Elderly patients are facing the consequences more than any other group. The report comes just weeks before the publication of the report of the public inquiry about Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. It adds weight to AvMA's conviction that almost 'perfect storm' conditions for further 'Staffords' have been created by a mixture of financial cut backs, massive re-organisation and fragmentation of the NHS, and low morale.

## **DATA ON 'NEVER EVENTS' PUBLISHED**

The Department of Health has finally published updated data on the reported incidences of so-called 'Never events', having initially refused AvMA's application under the Freedom of Information Act. 'Never events' are a list of 25 things that go wrong and cause harm which should never happen in a well-run NHS which follows existing guidance. Examples include misplaced naso-gastric tubes or surgery on the wrong part of the body or wrong patient. The number of reported incidents has more than doubled from 2010-11 to 2011-12. For the full report click [here](#).

## **LIVERPOOL CARE PATHWAY**

Pressure is mounting for an independent review of the Liverpool Care Pathway (the NHS guidelines on end of life care) and legal measures to ensure it is not abused. There is mounting evidence that the LCP is not being followed as it should; patients/relatives are not being involved in decisions and in some cases hydration stopped or powerful opioid drops used inappropriately. Ann Reeves, a veteran of the campaign around the Gosport War Memorial Hospital scandal and since, has launched a petition. Click [here](#) to add your support.

## **ONGOING CAMPAIGNS/PETITIONS**

If you have not done so, please add your names to the following petitions and encourage others to do so:

[Call for Independent Investigation into safety and regulatory failure re Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Robbie's Law \(a 'Duty of Candour'\)](#)

## **AvMA IN THE NEWS:**

29.08.12 Law Society Gazette: SLAS petition: <http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/petition-fights-clinical-negligence-clawback>

25.09.12 Daily Telegraph: MoJ Abandon Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/children\\_shealth/9563337/Ministry-of-Justice-abandons-10m-raid-on-medical-negligence-damages.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/children_shealth/9563337/Ministry-of-Justice-abandons-10m-raid-on-medical-negligence-damages.html)

25.09.12 Law Society Gazette: MoJ Abandon Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme <http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/supplementary-legal-aid-scheme-abandoned>

25.09.12 Daily Mirror: MoJ Abandon Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/government-axes-plan-to-take-share-1342312>

02.10.12 Daily Telegraph: Duty of Candour: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9579901/Fear-of-litigation-stopping-hospitals-admitting-mistakes.html>

31.10.12 Radio 4 News: Jimmy Savile implications re NHS safety/security

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

For information on all our events visit the [events](#) page of our website or e-mail [conferences@avma.org.uk](mailto:conferences@avma.org.uk)