

Martha's Rule

A Practical Guide to Implementation to improve Patient Safety

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Friday 5th July 2024
Wednesday 9th October 2024

Virtual Conference
Virtual Conference



Chair & Speakers Include:

Carolyn Cleveland
Director
C&C Empathy
Training Ltd

David Birch
Partner
Weightmans LLP

Dr Ron Daniels
Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Vice President, Global Sepsis Alliance
Executive Director, UK Sepsis Trust
Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary's University, London

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Martha's Rule

"The head of the NHS has today announced the rollout of 'Martha's Rule' in hospitals across England from April, enabling patients and families to seek an urgent review if their condition deteriorates... This escalation process will be available 24/7 to patients, families and NHS staff, and will be advertised throughout hospitals, making it quickly and easily accessible."
NHS England 21st February 2024

"Martha Mills died from sepsis aged 13 after sustaining a pancreatic injury from a bike accident. The inquest into her death heard that she would likely have survived had consultants made a decision to move her to intensive care sooner. Her mother, Merope, has spoken about the failures in Martha's care, and how she trusted the clinicians against her own instincts – they didn't listen to her concerns and instead "managed" her... Martha's Rule would mean that in the event of a suspected deterioration or serious concern on the part of a patient on a hospital ward, or their family or carer, they would have the right easily to call for a rapid review or second opinion from an ICU/HDU doctor within the same hospital."
Patient Safety Learning September 2023

"The first phase of the introduction of Martha's Rule will be implemented in the NHS from April 2024. Once fully implemented, patients, families, carers and staff will have round-the-clock access to a rapid review from a separate care team if they are worried about a person's condition."

The 3 proposed components of Martha's Rule are:

- 1. All staff in NHS trusts must have 24/7 access to a rapid review from a critical care outreach team, who they can contact should they have concerns about a patient.***
- 2. All patients, their families, carers, and advocates must also have access to the same 24/7 rapid review from a critical care outreach team, which they can contact via mechanisms advertised around the hospital, and more widely if they are worried about the patient's condition.***
- 3. The NHS must implement a structured approach to obtain information relating to a patient's condition directly from patients and their families at least daily. In the first instance, this will cover all inpatients in acute and specialist trusts."***
NHS England March 2024

"All patients, their families, carers and advocates must also have access to the same 24/7 rapid review from a critical care outreach team which they can contact via mechanisms advertised around the hospital and more widely if they are worried about the patient's condition. This is Martha's rule."
Dr Henrietta Hughes OBE Patient Safety Commissioner for England November 2023

"The creation of rules, regulations, laws, and codes are one thing; however, the key issue is how all these work together in practice to safeguard patients at ward and other levels. We need to ask ourselves whether patients are adequately protected when it comes to challenging a care decision and seeking more help."
John Tingle, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham

This conference brings together leading experts at the forefront of Martha's Rule implementation and offers a comprehensive and practical guide for clinical staff to seamlessly integrate Martha's Rule into their daily practice. The conference delves into the caregiver's perspective, principles and implications of Martha's Rule, legal and patient safety considerations, effective communication strategies, and the use of technology in the adoption of Martha's Rule.

"We are pleased that the implementation of Martha's Rule will begin in April. We want it to be in place as quickly and as widely as possible, to prevent what happened to our daughter from happening to other patients in hospital. We believe Martha's Rule will save lives. In cases of deterioration, families and carers by the bedside can be aware of changes busy clinicians can't; their knowledge should be recognised as a resource. We also look to Martha's Rule to alter medical culture: to give patients a little more power, to encourage listening on the part of medical professionals, and to normalise the idea that even the grandest of doctors should welcome being challenged. We call on all NHS clinicians to back the initiative: we know that the large majority do listen, are open with patients and never complacent – but Martha's doctors worked in a different culture, so some situations need to change. Our daughter was quite something: fun and determined, with a vast appetite for life and so many plans and ambitions – we'll never know what she would have achieved with all her talents. Hers was a preventable death, but Martha's Rule will mean that she didn't die completely in vain."
Martha's Parents 21st February 2024 NHS England

Throughout the day, there will be interactive sessions, small breakout groups, and collaborative exercises, fostering a dynamic learning experience.

This conference will enable you to:

- Network with colleagues who are working to improve patient safety within the NHS
- Empowering loved ones: reflect on the lived experience of a carer
- Learn about the conceptual foundations and legal implications of Martha's Rule in the NHS
- Understand the legal framework and ethical considerations surrounding Martha's Rule to ensure compliance
- Develop effective communication skills to articulate Martha's Rule to patients and relatives of patients
- Learn how to foster a collaborative decision-making process between patients and clinicians
- Implement best practices for creating a culture within their organisation to embrace Martha's Rule
- Gain insights into optimising EHR and other technologies to facilitate the second opinion process
- Apply interactive case studies to enhance practical understanding and application of Martha's Rule
- This conference supports CPD professional development and acts as revalidation evidence. This course provides 5 Hrs training for CPD subject to peer group approval for revalidation purposes

10.00 Chair's Welcome and Introduction - Caregiver's Perspective**Carolyn Cleveland**

Director
C&C Empathy Training Ltd

- Martha's story
- Learning from my experience

10.40 The Principles and Implications of Martha's Rule on Patients and Staff**Prof John Tingle**

Assistant Professor
University of Birmingham

- The key principles of Martha's Rule and their alignment with patient-centred care
- Martha's Rule VS existing GMC Code for patient's right to seek a second opinion
- Implications for patient autonomy, shared decision making, and informed consent
- Potential concerns and misconceptions

*11.15 Comfort Break & Virtual Networking***11.30 EXTENDED SESSION: Implementing Martha's Rule: Legal Considerations for NHS Hospitals****David Birch**

Partner
Weightmans LLP

- Understanding the legal principles underpinning patient consent and right to a rapid review or second opinion from an doctor within the same hospital
- The scope of patient's right to second opinion/review currently and under Martha's Law and the circumstances in which it applies
- Outlining clear procedures for requesting and obtaining second opinions/rapid review
- What are the necessary legislative changes and policy developments needed to implement Martha's Rule
- Establishing a fair and transparent process for patients exercising their right to a review
- Addressing legal considerations to ensure due process in the evaluation of second opinion requests
- Anticipating potential litigation risks associated with Martha's Rule
- Interactive discussion and case exercise

*12.45 Lunch Break & Virtual Networking***13.25 Facilitating Adoption of Martha's Rule through Technology****Dr Jodie Smythe**

Consultant in Critical Care
Royal Berkshire NHS Trust

- Understanding how technology can support implementation of Martha's Rule
- Using Call4Concern in practice
- Developing user-friendly mobile applications for patients seeking second opinions
- The potential for integration of telemedicine and virtual consultations into Martha's Rule

13.55 Recognising and Responding to the Deteriorating Patient: The Intersection between Human Factors and Martha's Rule**Dr Ron Daniels**

Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Vice President, Global Sepsis Alliance
Executive Director, UK Sepsis Trust
Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary's University, London

- Identifying common cognitive biases that may impede timely recognition of a deteriorating patient
- Applying a human factors approach to improve patient care
- Facilitating escalation through Martha's Rule
- Ethical considerations of involving patients in decision making during critical moment
- Case discussions on successful use of decision support tools in challenging clinical scenarios

*14.45 Comfort Break & Virtual Networking***15.00 EXTENDED SESSION
Practicalities of Martha's Rule Implementation: Integrating Patient Safety Protocols, changing the culture and improving communication****Professor Rob Galloway**

Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Trainer in Human Factors
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

- The role of second opinions in preventing medical errors and improving patient outcomes
- Strategies to mitigate risks and ensure patient safety remains a top priority throughout the second opinion process
- Ensuring there is no delay to critical interventions that could put patients at risk
- Identifying opportunities for synergy between Martha's Rule and patient safety
- Empowering staff to effectively convey patient rights
- Strategies for maintaining consistency in communication across the healthcare team
- Fostering a collaborative decision-making process between patients and clinicians
- Changing the culture: ensuring staff are not defensive when a second opinion is requested
- Ensuring staff feel able to speak up
- Interactive case exercise: Understanding the barriers to implementation

16.30 Chair's Closing Remarks

There will be time after each speaker session for Questions and Answers

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Partner
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Virtual Conference

This conference will include access to a user friendly virtual format which will provide you with the full experience from your workplace or home.

Date

- Friday 5th July 2024
 Wednesday 9th October 2024

Conference Fee

- £295 + VAT (£354.00) for NHS, Social care, private healthcare organisations and universities.
 £250 + VAT (£300.00) for voluntary sector / charities.
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