

Common abstract on workshop session

In many countries health care policy is going through serious difficulties. On one hand there is an increase of recognized citizens and patients rights in health care systems, based upon the ethical principles and values, such as rights to respect of his or her person as a human being; the right to self determination; the right to physical and mental integrity and to the security of his or her person; the right to respect for his or her privacy; the right to have his or her moral, cultural values, religious and philosophical convictions respected, the right for such protection of health as is afforded by appropriate measures for disease prevention and health care, and to the opportunity to pursue his or her own highest attainable level of health. On the hand for the majority of mankind there is the reality of poverty, undeveloped health care systems, scare resources and lack of democracy.

The role of patients' rights representatives/ombudsman for patients' rights can be a proper way to establish a unique approach to patients' rights and might be a way to overcome such differences.

With unique ombudsman's role in different countries we can contribute that the citizens and patients' rights become respected in the 21st century over the world. That's the good reason to work on common approach to their educational program.

Proposal of educational topics from 2001 meeting of the members of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives

Author: Đula Rusinovic-Sunara, Chair of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives

Postal address:

Mr. sc. Đula Rusinovic-Sunara, dr.med.

Čajkovskog 5

21 000 SPLIT

CROATIA

E-mail: dula.sunara@st.t-com.hr

ABSTRACT:

During the 12th World Congress on Medical Law, Helsinki 2000, the Croatian Association for Patients' Rights proposed to World Association for Medical Law to form an International Committee to work with patients' rights representatives in health care institutions. The Board of the WAML approved establishment of the Committee.

During September 22- 24, 2000, at Trogir-Croatia, the Croatian Association for Patients' Rights and the World Association for Medical Law, represented by Prof. Amnon Carmi, the President of WAML, jointly organized the International Meeting on the Establishment of an International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives.

It was agreed that three levels of patients' rights representatives would be needed, and that the first step towards a worldwide, unique approach to the role and working program of patients' rights representatives would be to establish their educational program.

Consent is needed on the framework for the advancement of the position of patients' rights representatives through the establishment of two unique programs:

(1) An international professional education course to train patients' rights representatives based on an updated curriculum stressing the legal, medical and ethical foundations of patients' rights;

(2) A pilot educational program to be instituted at the national level to train and support patients' rights representatives in health care institutions.

The main goal of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives is to develop a modern, international multidisciplinary program with a legal framework for Patients' Right Representatives and to devise a program for the education of patients' rights representatives. In developing such a novel venture the committee proposed the frame for educational program for patients' rights representatives.

During the 13th World Congress on Medical Law, Helsinki 2000, the Croatian Association for Patients' Rights proposed to World Association for Medical Law to form an International Committee to work with patients' rights representatives in health care institutions. The Board of Governors of the WAML approved the idea of the Committee.

During September 22 - 24, 2000 at Trogir-Croatia, the Croatian Association for Patients' Rights and the World Association for Medical Law, represented by Prof. Amnon Carmi, the President of WAML, jointly organized the International Meeting on the establishment of an International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives.

During the meeting in Trogir, it was decided that 12 representatives coming from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Macedonia and Slovenia, should be considered as founding members of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives.

It was agreed that three levels of patients' rights representatives would be needed, and that the first step towards a worldwide, unique approach to the role and working program of patients' rights representatives would be to establish their educational program.

The main goal of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives is to develop a modern, international multidisciplinary program with a legal framework for Patients' Right Representatives and to devise a program for the education of patients' rights representatives. In developing such a novel venture the committee decided to establish a pilot educational program for patients' rights representatives in health care institutions, namely for the education of the first level of patients' rights representatives.

The main goal of the International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives is to develop a framework for the advancement of the position of patients' rights representatives through the establishment of two unique programs:

(1) An international professional education course to train patients' rights representatives based on an updated curriculum stressing the legal, medical and ethical foundations of patient's rights.

(2) A pilot educational program to be instituted at the national level to train and support patients' rights representatives in health care institutions.

In furtherance of these goals, members of the WAML International Committee on Patients' Rights Representatives have undertaken to establish national Committees of Patients' Rights Representatives in their respective countries. These Committees will assist in instituting a pilot project in each participating country, and will support the formation and future activities of patients' right representatives. The International Committee will serve as a resource for patients' rights representatives at the national and international level and will coordinate activities.

The International Committee of WAML on Patients' Rights Representatives has undertaken to prepare a final program of education to be presented at the Conference in Split, March 2001.

From that proposed program there are main topics as that was approved by International Committee in Split 2001:

Curriculum of the educational program

(to be modified by the needs of the patients' rights representatives)

1. Health legislation and health care system:

- International documents
- Constitution and other legislation on the national level (civil law, health insurance law, social care/welfare laws, administrative laws, etc.)

1. Patients Rights:

- Right to health care,
- Right to respect for human dignity,
- Right to self - determination
- Right to privacy
- Right to information, informed consent
- Right to refuse the treatment,
- Right to confidentiality,
- Right to access to medical records,
- Right to keep contact with the outside world,
- Right to complain,

Rights of vulnerable groups of patients:

- Psychiatry patients
- Children rights
- Geriatric patients
- Rights of terminally ill patients
- Respecting ethnical, religious and other differences
- etc.

1. Enforcement of patients' rights

- Institutions (municipality, hospital, social welfare office, ministries, ombudsman, constitutional court, etc.)
- Complaint procedures (municipality, hospital, social welfare office, ministries, ombudsman, constitutional court, etc.)

1. Bioethics

- Theories
- Hippocratic ethics
- Paternalism and autonomy
- Informed consent
- Truth telling
- End of life decisions, euthanasia, living will,
- Palliative care,
- Transplantation,
- Reproduction medicine,

- Malpractice,
- Experimentation,
- Question of limited resources
- AIDS,
- etc.

1. Psychology

- Empathy,
- Psychotherapy,
- Medical psychology,
- Psychology of physician patients relationships
- etc.

1. Sociology

- Medical sociology,
- Health, sickness, society,
- etc.

7. Mediation

- Theory
- Methodology,
- Communication,
- etc.