The Royal College of Midwives Legal Birth: A Conference

Midwives’ responsibilities in practice

Thursday 3 July 2014
At the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Regent’s Park, London NW1 4RG
£125 + VAT
Corporate bookings: for every four places booked you will receive a free place

Registered for 6 hours CPD

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Now in its sixth year, this unique conference considers and debates the current legal issues and challenges facing healthcare professionals involved in providing maternity care, including:

The **Francis Report** made recommendations on a range of issues, including: the culture of care, professional regulation, monitoring of standards maintained by health providers, putting patients first and patient advocacy. What impact has the report had on midwifery practice and what remains to be done?

**Risk management** is a significant and increasing concern in maternity care today. In ‘Think the Unthinkable’ we consider the lessons learned by organisations outside the NHS. For example, what strategy is needed at an airport to identify risk and promote a culture where staff work to minimise risk? A risk management midwife will then explore what lessons can be best applied to maternity care.

At last year’s conference both delegates and speakers had strong views on the future of supervision. What is the role of supervision in modern midwifery care? What is the responsibility of the supervisor if something goes wrong? We will explore these questions with you through a fitness to practice scenario, followed by an interactive debate.

Legal Birth is a consistently popular conference: between 180 and 250 delegates have booked onto this conference each year since its launch in 2009. Delegates have seen this event as a valuable opportunity to meet and network with colleagues facing similar issues in their organisations.

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<th>Conference Timetable</th>
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<td><strong>8.30</strong></td>
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| **9.30** | Welcome and introduction from the Chair  
*Professor Cathy Warwick CBE, CEO of The Royal College of Midwives* |
| **9.40** | Annual legal update  
1. Brief summary of changes in litigation  
2. In-depth analysis of 1 or 2 key cases of 2013/2014  
*Barbara Hewson, Barrister, 1 Gray’s Inn Square* |
| **10.10** | The Francis Inquiry: the impact one year on  
*Ruth Thorlby, Senior Fellow in Health Policy, Nuffield Trust  
Carmel Lloyd, Head of Education and Learning, RCM* |
| **10.50** | Coffee |
| **11.20** | Turning a blind eye: the legal consequences  
*Andrew Andrews MBE, Director of Medico-Legal Group, Bond Solon* |
| **11.35** | Think the unthinkable – ask ‘what if?’  
*Simon King, Head of Risk Management, Heathrow Airport  
Chris Berner, Senior Clinical Midwife and Supervisor of Midwives, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust* |
| **12.05** | When things go wrong  
1. Communication – in the cause and investigation of an incident  
2. Avoiding confirmation bias  
3. Over-reliance on memory  
*Leslie Cuthbert, Solicitor Advocate and Bond Solon Trainer* |
| **12.35** | Panel discussion |
| **12.55** | Lunch and exhibition  
*Afternoon session chaired by  
Mark Solon, Managing Director, Bond Solon Training* |
| **14.00** | Fitness to practice (a case study)  
A midwife collapsed over mother and baby. The supervisor of midwives (SoM) investigated and her report identified substance misuse. The midwife’s addiction had been known to the unit and the SoM for a number of years.  
The SoM has been called to a fitness to practice hearing. The audience is the panel.  
Taking part in the roleplay:  
*Karen Godfrey-Edwards, RCM Regional Officer  
Elizabeth Gomez, Professional Advisor Education, The Royal College of Midwives  
Pat Gould, RCM Regional Head (South)  
Andrew Andrews MBE, Director of Medico-Legal Group, Bond Solon  
Leslie Cuthbert, Solicitor Advocate and Bond Solon Trainer  
Rob Gray, Barrister and Bond Solon Trainer* |
| **15.15** | Tea |
| **15.45** | Debate: has supervision had its day?  
The motion is: This house believes that supervision has had its day. To start the debate, you will hear from two speakers proposing the motion and two speakers opposing the motion. The debate is then open to the floor to hear your thoughts before the speakers sum up and the vote taken.  
*Anne-Marie Henshaw, Head of Midwifery / Supervisor of Midwives, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust  
Jess Read, LSAMO London  
Jane Herve, Head of Midwifery, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust  
Carole Yearley, Professional Lead Midwifery, Lead Midwife for Education, University of Hertfordshire* |
| **16.20** | Questions |
| **16.40** | Closing comments from the afternoon Chair |
| **16.45** | Close |
Speakers

**Professor Cathy Warwick CBE** is Chief Executive of the Royal College of Midwives. She has held a number of senior posts in midwifery education and in the NHS managing midwifery and nursing services. Cathy has been Chair of the Midwifery Committee at the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

**Barbara Hewson** is regularly ranked as a Leading Junior by the Legal 500 in the fields of Public & Administrative Law, Human Rights & Civil Liberties, and Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law. Chambers UK (2014) describes Barbara as “bright passionate and committed ...her client manner is outstanding.”

**Ruth Thorlby** is a senior fellow in health policy at the Nuffield Trust. Her research interests include NHS reform, GP commissioning, accountability, international comparisons and health inequalities. Before joining the Nuffield Trust she was a senior fellow at The King’s Fund.

**Carmel Lloyd** recently joined the RCM as Head of Education and Learning. Her previous roles include Assistant Director of Standards and Standards Development Manager at the NMC, Lecturer in Midwifery and Women’s Health Studies at Kings College, and Supervisor of Midwives at Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Trust.

**Andrew Andrews MBE** is a lawyer by profession and a respected legal advisor. Andrew is an established and recognised medico-legal trainer. His present responsibilities include Medico-Legal Director Bond Solon and National Safeguarding Officer St John Ambulance.

**Simon King** is currently responsible for the enterprise risk management strategy across London Heathrow, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Southampton airports as well as Heathrow Express; businesses which face high operating safety and security risks, and whose operations are at risk from the activities of complex supply chains.

**Chris Berner** is a Specialist Midwife for Risk Management, focused on the reduction of risk events affecting childbirth, primarily by upholding women’s choices within a culture of safety. She was involved in the HIEC NECLES programme which focused on optimising opportunities for normal birth with the consequent reduction in intervention rates.

**Leslie Cuthbert** is a Solicitor-Advocate and a trainer with Bond Solon. His other roles include: Panel Chair for the Fitness to Practice Committee of the NMC, Tribunal Judge chairing hearings under the Mental Health Act, a trainer of lawyers and investigators and Managing Director of a specialist Investigative Interviewing company.

**Mark Solon** is a solicitor and founder of Bond Solon. He has trained several hundred midwives in courtroom skills and legal report writing since 1992 and has a particular soft spot for midwives having four children of his own and having delivered the fourth by himself.

**Karen Godfrey-Edwards** is a midwife and a former supervisor of midwives. She worked mainly in community before becoming a lead midwife and then setting up a VBAC clinic. Karen joined the college in 2008 and currently works as an Regional Officer covering the East of England.

**Pat Gould** is a midwife and joined the RCM staff in 1994. Her present role is Regional Head for Southern England, managing a team of Regional Officers and providing expertise on a range of employment related and professional issues affecting RCM members. Her particular areas of interest are equality and leadership.

**Rob Gray** is a barrister, trainer and Bond Solon Assistant Director. Rob is skilled at training witnesses on how to follow a logical structure when giving their evidence, and experienced in showing them how to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses in evidence.

**Anne-Marie Henshaw** is currently a Head of Midwifery and has a background in education and statutory regulation. Her PhD study explored midwives perspectives of the midwifery statutory supervisory review meeting and their views about the extent to which the meeting was ‘fit for purpose’ as part of a regulatory function.

**Jess Read** has worked across all aspects of the maternity services with experience in Community midwifery and promotion of home birth to managing a busy Labour ward, Birth Centre and Community Services. Since 2008 Jess has been working with London LSA and is currently the LSA Midwifery Officer for London.

**Jane Herve** has been a practising midwife for 30 years. She has previously been a Supervisor of Midwives and is currently Head of Midwifery. The provision of excellent care to women and their families and supporting and enabling midwives to achieve this is what motivates her in her professional and managerial role.

**Carole Yearley** is the Professional Lead for Midwifery and is the Lead Midwifery for Education at the University of Hertfordshire. She is a Supervisor of Midwives and is a member of the supervisory team at West Herts Hospital Trusts. She is also a panel member on the NMC Fitness to Practise Conduct and Competence Committee.
The Royal College of Midwives

The Royal College of Midwives, run by midwives for midwives, provides professional support and information to the UK midwifery sector and every midwife. The RCM is committed to developing a maternity service that truly meets women’s and babies’ needs throughout pregnancy, labour and the postnatal period. A maternity service based on woman-centred care is a vital contribution to public health and an essential investment in the well-being of tomorrow’s citizens.

The RCM is also the leading trade union for midwives, and provides workplace support and legal advice to midwives and maternity support workers through an extensive network of workplace representatives and experienced national/regional officers.

Bond Solon Training

Bond Solon delivers legal training programmes that are consistently rated as ‘excellent’ by health and social care professionals. Bond Solon has worked with over 300 NHS trusts, professional associations, health bodies, colleges and private sector organisations. Courses illustrate key medico-legal issues through trainer-led discussion, interactive role-play and decided cases.

Confirmation of registration

On receipt of your booking, a confirmation email with a venue map will be sent to you. If you have not received confirmation within a few weeks of placing your booking, please call us on 020 7549 2549.

Cancellations

must be received in writing by Thursday 12 June 2014 and will be subject to a 25% administration fee. Cancellations received after Thursday 12 June 2014 and those not received in writing, will not be accepted and the delegate(s) will be liable for the full conference fee. Delegate names may be changed at any time.

Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control, speakers and timings may vary. We reserve the right to cancel the conference if necessary and issue a full refund of fees.

Corporate Bookings

To take advantage of our corporate booking discount where five attend for the price of four please contact Luke O’Connor on 020 7549 2549 or email loconnor@bondsolon.com