

RECOGNISING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR & SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse by medical and healthcare employees is defined more broadly than sexual assault under criminal law. Medical and healthcare employees are accountable for putting the needs of patients first. Safe patient care is the only goal of the caregiver-patient relationship. Patient consent to sexual activities is immaterial, as the obligation for safe patient care is ultimately with the medical and healthcare employee.

Below are examples of inappropriate sexual behavior and or sexual abuse between the medical and healthcare employee and their patient.

1

The medical or healthcare employee rubs, pats or touches a patient's body not required for the medical examination.

2

The medical or healthcare employee closely watches a patient undressing and fails to consider the patient's privacy.

3

The medical or healthcare employee secretly films, records or takes photos of a patient for their own personal use.

4

The medical or healthcare employee asks the patient on a date or social event while providing care.

5

The medical or healthcare employee secretly exchanges intimate texts with a patient.

6

The medical or healthcare employee questions a patient on their sexual activity that is unrelated to their care.

7

The medical or healthcare employee takes a patient's hand and places it between their legs.

8

The medical or healthcare employee engages in a sexual relationship with a patient.

9

The medical or healthcare employee touches an intimate area longer than necessary to stimulate a sexual reaction.

10

The medical or healthcare employee touches intimate areas of an unconscious or sedated patient unnecessarily.

11

The medical or healthcare employee kisses a patient and asks them not to say anything.

12

The medical or healthcare employee makes sexually suggestive comments about the patient's body or anatomy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PREVENTING
SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIENTS CALL OUR

HELPLINE ON : 041 984 5761
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