

## **NUC case study**

### **Advising as an Expert Witness – Dr Andrew Wilcock**

Dr Andrew Wilcock, from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Nottingham, has contributed his expertise to a number of high-profile medical malpractice cases, thanks to consultancy agreements managed by Nottingham University Consultants (NUC).

Dr Wilcock, a prescribing advisor to the British National Formulary, is pain specialist in the area of palliative care – the holistic care of patients with advanced progressive illness such as cancer.

Palliative care tries to make the end of a person's life as comfortable as possible by attempting to relieve pain and other distressing symptoms while providing psychological, social and spiritual support to both the patient and their family.



Dr Wilcock's expertise in this area of medicine means that he has frequently been approached by the police to serve as an expert witness in medical malpractice cases related to end-of-life care. Usually such cases concern the prescription of strong opioids, such as morphine, when questions are raised about the death of a patient.

Dr Wilcock has worked closely with several police forces across the country, closely reviewing potential malpractice cases and lending his expertise to help them establish whether or not there is a basis for the case to proceed to court.

In cases where a prosecution is pursued, Dr Wilcock has been called on to testify as an Expert Witness – providing an impartial assessment of the care a patient received based on his specialist knowledge in the field.

Commenting on his experience, Dr Wilcock said: "I have found this type of work very satisfying to undertake, particularly as it provides an opportunity to reflect in depth upon one's own practice. NUC has been particularly helpful and responsive, taking away the hassle of sorting out contracts, providing indemnity and handling payment."

#### **Nottingham University Consultants**

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