

Best Practices at MGIMS Sevagram: Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit (CFMU)

1. Title of the Practice

Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit (CFMU) at Accident & Emergency Centre/ Casualty under Department of Forensic Medicine

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To improve the quality of medico-legal work of our hospital and to assist in proper disbursement of justice.
- To involve faculty members in handling clinical forensic work so that they can impart practical medico-legal skills to undergraduate and postgraduate students more effectively
- To involve postgraduate trainees in Forensic Medicine in actual handling of clinical forensic work.
- To relieve clinicians and radiologists from attending the court calls, giving evidence in court, preparing medico-legal reports, weapon reports etc.

3. The Context

Clinicians are often inadequately trained to deal with medicolegal issues and are not well equipped to handle judicial procedures. Previously postgraduates passed MD Forensic Medicine exam without even handling a single forensic case. As per MCI and MUHS regulations in Forensic Medicine, postgraduate trainees must be involved in actual handling of clinical forensic services; and to fulfill this mandate, the CFMU was created under the Department of Forensic Medicine.

To improve the quality of clinical forensic services we needed to modify the old formats that were being used since decades. We needed a separate space for postgraduates and faculty members to conduct medico-legal examination of all types of patients including sexual assault cases, preparation of medico-legal documents, weapon reports, final reports and also space for proper preservation of forensic samples till its handover to police.

4. The Practice

Since August 2012, separate space was provided to the CFMU in the Accident and Emergency Centre. MGIMS became the only institute in the country where the Department of Forensic Medicine offers all types of clinical forensic services in the casualty/ Emergency Medicine Department round the clock. The Forensic Medicine consultants collect data form of all patients who seek healthcare in the accident and emergency unit of hospital because of accidents, injuries and trauma, assess victims of sexual assault and also deal with such issues as estimating the age of the patients and determining whether or not the person is alcohol intoxicated

5. Evidence of Success

- Faculty members are getting hands on training in the practical intricacies of clinical forensic work
- PG students in Forensic Medicine are now actually handling clinical forensic work

- As CFMU has relieved the burden of clinical medico-legal work of clinicians we got good support from all the specialties especially Surgery, Orthopedics, ENT, OBGY, radiology and medicine. Clinicians can focus on their clinical work and no longer have to attend courts and cross examinations

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Previously our department of Forensic Medicine use to run only from 9 am to 5 pm. But, now due to CFMU our department runs 24x7. So, problems of time scheduling will be encountered. Adequate manpower is also needed according to workloads to provide round the clock clinical forensic services.



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