

**INQUIRY INTO OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF
CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 14 October 2016

Partially
Confidential

RECEIVED

14 OCT 2016

SELECT COMMITTEE

10/10/2016

**The Director
Select Committee on Off-Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy in NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie st
Sydney NSW 2000**

inquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the care provided to my mother in 1999 and 2000 by Dr Kiran Phadke as part of the St George Hospital Oncology Complex

My mother suffered from primary peritoneal carcinoma.. a variant of ovarian cancer.

The diagnosis was missed by a private radiologist who misread a CT scan of the abdomen , six months previously when a gynaecologist felt a mass . She had had her ovaries removed a few years previously with no evidence of cancer on that histology .

Dr Kiran Phadke and an oncology surgeon were left with the hopeless task of attempting to modify my mothers cancer through the timing of chemotherapy and then surgery

My mothers prognosis for cure was nil.. but the possibility that a debulking operation might prolong her life existed up to six to twelve months as a real possibility

My point is, that it is the fear of all cancer sufferers and their families that the treatment may be worse than the illness.

It may very well have been in this case . The surgery was a failure .. The cancer spread quickly and my

mother passed away in early 2000. The surgery weakened her.

However the relative risks and benefits for this particular form of cancer were explained as best as one can in a continuously uncertain illness , and agreement to proceed occurred

However it was the surgery, not the chemotherapy that weakened my mother.

I have no doubt that Dr Kiran Phadke would have made some degree of intuitive decision based on his knowledge of the parameters of symptoms of cancer and the range of potential side effects..(weighing up potential benefit vs potential harm to the individual patient... my mother...at that time of her life)

To develop an intuitive clinical skill based on knowledge takes a lot of time experience and skill..As far as I can discern Dr Kiran Phadke has worked as oncologist / haematologist for the Sutherland and St George Shires for over thirty years and acted almost as the solo oncologist / haematologist for the Sutherland and St George Shire from somewhere around the early 1980's until the government controlling the hospital system deemed it fit to provide support to his voluminous output of care

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At this stage of my letter I must make the declaration that I am also been a referring doctor to in my role as General Practitioner

at

where I have worked just under thirty years and observed the work of Dr Kiran Phadke for so many of my patients over this period of time without a single complaint against this doctor

The only complaint I ever did hear was in the form of a verbal diplomatic whisper from Dr Kiran Phadke himself when it was clear that some younger specialist.. either in his own field , or an interventional cardiologist or whatever had deemed it fit to 'follow protocol' unthinkingly and placed some elderly or otherwise frail individual patient in potential harms way by practising their trade and provided heavy handed therapies replete with their side effects.

The one dictum I have carried myself as a doctor is that one should "First Do No Harm"

I was taught that a high percentage of illness was actually caused by doctors and, with variable success, I have attempted to limit any collateral damage caused by my treatments unnecessarily upon my patients....and I am only a GP!.... a much lesser prospect than the determination of chemotherapy or other doses for the multitude of cancers

1) I give my full support of any intuitive clinical decisions that Dr Kiran Phadke both as the family member of a patient.. plus as a professional in the community

2) I have no vested interest in this outcome of this enquiry except that , whilst I have no problem with the

weeding out of 'bad doctors' ... this is so definitely not one of them

3)I have a sneaking suspicion that because Dr Kiran Phadke was not afraid to make a verbal diplomatic whisper to other doctors regarding the 'keenness to over- treat' by his colleagues in their care (no doubt following the exact 'protocols' to which your Parliament House enquiry is named) that I suspect an overt or covert political , and hospital based move to allow any undermining of the reputation of Dr Kiran Phadke to occur.

I personally suspect this entire enquiry is based on a harmful retribution orchestrated by bureaucracy , and will result in untold harm for Dr Kiran Phadke , plus distress for his patients.

Regrettably once in the hands of a disciplinary enquiry committee at our "Parliament" that politicians will need to be seen to be getting some sort of positive action on behalf of their constituents .

Hearing Dr Kiran Phadke's name spoken on the radio at the initial enquiry made me realise how often the 'bad doctors' that get media headlines seem to have 'foreign sounding names'

I implore you to use some common sense in this ill conceived enquiry for a doctor who in the eyes of the wider community has stood out for decades as an appropriate ,empathetic and caring doctor

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Kiran Phadke also works (worked) through

plus

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PS..(Regrettably one has a suspicion that to have such a flavoured title as " Director of Select Committee on Off-Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy in NSW" that your committee wishes to judge and prosecute anything perceived as "Off-Protocol Prescribing ")