

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

Name: Mr Jeff Puckeridge

Date received: 19 October 2016

Partially
Confidential

10th October, 2016

The Director
Select Committee on Off-Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy in NSW

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in support of Dr Kiran Phadke, and I trust this correspondence may be tabled in the forthcoming inquiry.

I have read the Terms of Reference and a good deal of associated documentation in this regard.

The issue which must be addressed in my opinion is to exonerate Dr Phadke and expedite his honourable return to practice.

An appropriate method of an electronic prescribing system and a review of protocol I respectfully leave to you, as we all put our trust in your hands.

I have seen Dr Phadke every four or six months for about three years, due to my Polycythaemia rubra vera, where my bone marrow produces excessive red cells and raises my Platelets level. Under Dr Phadke's direction, I have had Busulfan therapy and one course of Hydrea tablets.

Prior to each consultation, I have a blood test. Dr Phadke discusses the results of the Haematology, and compares my counts to the Reference numbers. My counts are usually above 450, but not greatly, and the recording trend which we monitor shows my condition is stabilised.

Dr Phadke always provides me with sufficient information for my consenting to treatment.

I am 68 years old and I work two jobs, one as a risk manager and one as a part time TAFE teacher. I am not considering chemotherapy, as I believe Dr Phadke's treatment is right for me. Should chemotherapy become necessary, no doubt Dr Phadke will recommend this. In the meantime, there are other courses of treatment to get my Platelets level down which are not a risk.

A possible outcome of this inquiry may be a review of Protocols, and some flexibility for your doctors to work with.

Item 39 of the Interim Report 31-3-2016 “Off Protocol Prescribing of Chemotherapy for Head and Neck Cancers” advises;

Due to the benefits and risks of chemotherapy, clinicians need to be able to adjust dosages appropriate to patient’s needs and wishes. There are times when off protocol prescribing can be appropriate. Although there are mechanisms in place to reduce the risk of such off-protocol prescribing in the future, the MOSAIQ®system can still be over-ridden on a patient-by-patient, drug-by-drug basis (and such functionality is crucial to personalising medication doses). Wherever this happens, careful ongoing monitoring of such prescribing is required. (ToR1b, ToR4).

I worked for many years as a technical insurance underwriter. The underlying principle was that each risk must be assessed on its merits. I had underwriting manuals and guidelines, and I worked to these with a degree of flexibility which enabled me to carry out my job to maximum performance.

I speak with other professionals and they, like me, have the highest respect and confidence for Dr Phadke.

I was due to see Dr Phadke last month. During my recent bi-annual visit with Dr he kindly referred me to Dr

I trust the inquiry is able to resolve this matter, with perhaps a review of procedures, and the return of Dr Phadke in the short term.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Puckeridge
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Part Time Casual Teacher of Electrotechnology, Ultimo TAFE

Cc: Dr Kiran Phadke