

WG Patient Safety - “Defensive medicine”

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“Defensive medicine”

- Conclusions:
 - Need for paradigm change – creating a system that will protect doctors and enable free and autonomous practice of medical profession
 - Need for “no shame – no blame” environment
 - Need for reporting of all unwanted events and “near-misses”
 - Need for organisation which learns from mistakes and constantly evolves and improves

“Defensive medicine”

- Fields of action:
 - Interaction with universities, professional organisations, teaching facilities
 - Training on communication and leading skills
 - Importance of support from the top management
 - Interaction with legislative bodies and health administration - legal framework for reimbursing the patients who experience any harm as a consequence of medical act
 - Good communication with media and general public

“Defensive medicine”

- There is no universal solution “one size fitting all”
- Importance of cultural and economic conditions which create the expectations of the patients
- Guidelines and treatment algorithms can serve as a useful tool in decision making process but can not replace experience and responsible clinical judgement

“Defensive medicine”

- Role of medical profession
 - No excuse for passive behaviour
 - Solutions for defensive medicine are in our hands:
 - Good education, CME/CPD
 - Self-confident actions
 - Good inter-departmental relations
 - Support instead of punishment for failure
 - Internal audit
 - Flexible acceptance of proposed changes in the frame of traditional hierarchy
 - Active participation in the process of new laws preparation
 - administrative measures can determine to a very high extent the way we are behaving

