



**Findings of the Fitness to Practise Committee  
following an Inquiry held pursuant to Part 8  
of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007**

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<b>Registered Medical Practitioner:</b>	Dr Vincent Osunkwo
<b>Registration Number:</b>	163244
<b>Registered Address:</b>	20 Erris Square Waterville Blanchardstown Dublin 15
<b>Date of Inquiry:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September, 13 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013
<b>Members of Inquiry Committee:</b>	Mr Declan Carey (Chair) Dr Geraldine Corrigan Mr Tom Ewing
<b>Legal Assessor:</b>	Ms Patricia Dillon SC
<b>Appearances - For the Chief Executive:</b>	Mr. JP Mc Dowell of Mc Dowell Purcell Solicitors.
<b>For the Practitioner:</b>	Not present and not represented

**Findings of fact of the Committee:**

**Allegation 1:**

That Dr Osunkwo on or around 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in relation to Patient A:

- a) Failed to adequately react and/or respond in relation to a course of treatment suggested by (Nurse X) upon Patient A's admission to the hospital and/or
- b) Attempted to cannulate Patient A ~~or were about to attempt to cannulate Patient A~~ with the use of scalpel to cut Patient A's hand and/or

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee found that :

Allegation 1(a) was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Nurse X and had regard to the case notes

Allegation 1(b) was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Nurse X in this regard.

**Allegation 2:**

That on or around 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 Dr Osunkwo attempted to read and/or examine a c spine x-ray while holding it upside down.

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee found that :

Allegation 2 was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee relied on the unchallenged evidence of Mr Joe Hoolan on this regard.

**Allegation 3:**

That Dr Osunkwo in or around the period 09 March 2009 to 12 March 2009:

- a) Asked a member of the hospital nursing staff whether a patient's pulse rate reading of 165 beats per minute was high and/or
- b) Failed to cannulate a patient due antibiotics intravenously and/or

Allegation 3(a) was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Nurse Aisling McCormack in this regard.

Allegation 3(b) was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Nurse Aisling McCormack in this regard.

**Allegation 4:**

That on or around 09 April 2009, Dr Osunkwo made an excessive number of attempts to take a blood sample from patient B's arm(s)

Allegation 4 was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Nurse Sharon Mooney.

**Allegation 5:**

That Dr Osunkwo, during the period of in or around 30 March 2009 to in or around 12 April 2009, when he had been removed of all clinical responsibility and was being monitored Mr Walter Conway, Consultant Surgeon and/or members of his team:

- a) Informed Mr Conway and/or members of his team that a patient was “fine” in circumstances where the patient had an abnormally low oxygen saturation value and was receiving oxygen in the intensive care unit and/or
- b) Informed Mr Conway and/or a member of his team that a patient had a benign prostate condition when that was not the case and/or
- c) ~~Informed Mr Conway and/or a member of his team that one or more scan(s) performed on a patient were fine in circumstances where the kidney scan(s) showed multiple abnormal masses and/or~~ - **This allegation was withdrawn by the CEO**
- d) Were unable to inform Mr Conway and/or a member of his team of the name of an artery on the foot called the *dorsalis pedis artery* and/or
- e) Were unable to identify the nasal bone in an x-ray when asked to do so by Mr Conway and/or a member of his team and/or
- f) Were unable to inform Mr Conway and/or a member of his team of the medical term used to describe the symptom of difficulty in swallowing i.e. dysphagia and/or
- g) Were unable to diagnose a fungal infection of a nail and/or

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee found that :

Allegation 5(a)(b)(d)(e)(f)(g) were proven as to fact.

Reason:

The Committee accepted the unchallenged evidence of Ms Pardy, Ms Cooke and Mr Conway. The Committee had regard to the documentary record of the meetings of 12<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. The Committee also had regard of Dr Osunkwo’s letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 through his solicitors.

**Finding of the Committee in relation to the allegation of professional misconduct.**

The Committee find that the allegation of professional misconduct is proven in each case insofar as Allegations 1(a), 1(b), 2, 3(a), 3(b), 4, 5(a), 5(b) are concerned.

Reason:

The Committee is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the conduct in each case amounted to a serious falling short of the standards to be expected of a doctor practicing

medicine at a Senior House Officer level. The Committee relied on the unchallenged evidence of Mr Peel in relation to allegations 1(a), 1(b), 2, 3(a), 3(b), 4, 5(a), 5(b) in each case.

**Findings of the Committee in relation to the allegation of poor professional performance.**

The Committee find that the allegation of poor professional performance is proven.

Reason:

The Committee is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the conduct amounted to a failure to meet the standards of competence in knowledge, skill and application of same that could reasonably be expected of a Senior House Officer. The Committee relied on the unchallenged evidence of Mr Peel in relation to allegations 5(d), 5(e), 5(f), 5(g). The Committee was satisfied that allegations 5(d), 5(e), 5(f), 5(g) together represent a fair sample of Dr Osunkwo's work.



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Chairperson

8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

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Date