

FROM THE SECRETARY
Major General S M Abraham CB MC BA

cc. Mrs. M. Ferguson

The Hospital Administrator
Middlesex Hospital
Mortimer Street
LONDON W1P 7PN

2 April 1982

Dear Sir,

I write to you on a rather unusual problem. Some of the Sociology students of this College go to the Middlesex Hospital and, as part of their studies, undergo medical experience. We have about eight there now and over the next four years expect to send about 50, or roughly 12 a year.

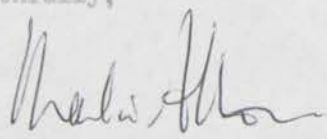
They work at the Hospital for about 2 1/2 days a term and also have an intensive period at full time for six weeks in the summer. While in the Hospital, they do any kind of 'delegated medical or nursing work', which in practice can be whatever a Ward Sister tells them to do. Such attentions to patients as intra-muscular injections, intra-venous infusions, or naso-gastric feeds may be given, besides the routine chores of administering tablets and pills, giving patients their food, and tucking them up in bed.

Clearly there is room for error since the students are by no means medically qualified and it is this that worries us. They are not, as is the traditional nurse, employed by the National Health Service and totally insured by the Area Health Authority. Nor are they like doctors covered against negligence under an Indemnity Health Insurance. They are not employed indeed by the Hospital and provide their services to it simply as part of their general learning.

We are worried as to what would happen should any of our students inadvertently cause a patient injury of some kind, and I write to ask whether the Area Health Authority, or its equivalent, would be prepared to indemnify the College and the students individually from all liability of whatsoever nature in relation to their activities whilst at the Middlesex Hospital.

If the Area Health Authority or its equivalent were prepared to countenance such an agreement, it would certainly remove a lot of anxiety.

Yours faithfully,



S.M. ABRAHAM

SMA/jl