

Kelly, Katie, Booth, Lisa ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7957-6501> and Miller, Paul K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5611-1354> (2020) Eliciting consent from patients with dementia in general x-ray departments: law, ethics and interpretation of context. In: UK Imaging and Oncology Congress 2020: Pathways and Communication, 1-3 June 2020, ACC, Liverpool. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/5339/>

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

provided that

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
 - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.

Eliciting consent from patients with dementia in general X-ray departments: Law, ethics and interpretation of context

Katie Kelly^{1,2}, Lisa Booth² and Paul K. Miller²

¹*Blackpool Victoria Hospital, UK*

²*University of Cumbria, UK*

Background: While the numbers of individuals suffering from dementia syndromes in the UK steadily increase, many practitioners in the allied healthcare professions, and particularly junior staff, still feel ill-equipped for face-to-face communicative encounters with such individuals (Miller et al., 2019; Tullo et al., 2016). An elemental feature of effective communication in healthcare contexts is the seeking of proper consent to perform given procedures. The propositions above, however, raise questions regarding how ‘properly’ consent is being acquired when dementia is at stake. This paper, thus, reports findings from a qualitative study of general radiographers’ experiences of acquiring consent from patients with dementia, specifically exploring participants’ interpretations of correct legal and ethical practice therein.

Methods: With institutional ethical approval, N=6 general radiographers with less than ten years of clinical experience were recruited to sit for extended interviews. Verbatim transcripts were analysed using the domain-established techniques of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (Miller et al., 2017).

Results: Four key areas of extremely variable interpretation and practice were identified. (1) How to assess capacity for informed consent; (2) How to effectively modify communication

when gaining consent; (3) Managing carer involvement during consent-acquisition and; (4) Constituting the ‘best interest’ of the patient.

Conclusion: Participants’ own accounts often indicated that they were often not lawfully implementing the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) when acquiring consent. Moreover, as previously identified by Miller et al. (2019), the situational confusion did little for participants’ confidence, with prospectively damaging import for future encounters. Stronger training in *practical application* of the MCA is recommended.

References

Miller PK, Booth L and Spacey A (2019) Dementia and clinical interaction in frontline radiography: Mapping the practical experiences of junior clinicians in the UK. *Dementia* 18(3): 1010-1024.

Miller PK, Woods AL, Sloane C and Booth L (2017) Obesity, heuristic reasoning and the organisation of communicative embarrassment in diagnostic radiography. *Radiography* 23(2): 130-134.

Tullo ES, Young TJ and Lee RP (2016) Medical students’ views about person-centred communication in dementia care. *Dementia* 17(5): 573-584.