

## Registrar Worksheet

### Specific questions to explore professional boundaries cases

#### 1. Family members or staff

What are the advantages of seeing the family member or staff member?

What are the adverse outcomes that might occur?

Can you deal with the conflicts of interest that might arise? How might you do this?

Can you identify circumstances where treating a staff or family member might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

#### 2. Gifts

What are the advantages of receiving a gift?

What are the adverse outcomes that might occur?

Can you deal with the conflicts of interest that might arise? How might you do this?

Can you identify circumstances where receiving the gift might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

#### 3. Patients who are seeing you about relationship or intimate problems

What are the advantages of continuing to see this patient? Have you some agreed objectives for the program of therapy?

What are the adverse outcomes that might occur? How might you become aware that there was a problem? How might you try to manage it?

Can you identify circumstances where continuing with the program might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid possible breaches of professional boundaries when undertaking these types of therapy?

4. Patients who specifically only want to see you and for whom you make special arrangements to make this so

What are the advantages in enabling this to happen?

What are the adverse outcomes that might occur?

What effect might these types of arrangements have on you in the long term? What effects might this have on the other patients you see?

Can you identify circumstances where fitting them in might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

5. Patients who have repeatedly attended for minor ailments

What problematic factors might underlie such patterns of presentation?

How might you become aware of these problematic factors?

How might you go about addressing the issue with the patient?

Are there ways of managing this without explicitly discussing the issues with the patient?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid such developments in general practice?

6. Patients for whom you have issued a medical certificate where you have felt uneasy

What were the advantages of issuing the medical certificate?

What are the adverse prognostic outcomes that might occur as a result of this?

Are there conflicts of interest that might arise? What might they be?

Can you identify circumstances where issuing a medical certificate might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

7. Patients who consistently make appointments at the end of the consulting session

What are the advantages in enabling this to happen?

What are the difficult situations that might arise?

Can you identify circumstances where fitting them late in the session might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

8. Patients for whom you have found yourself doing "something extra" that is outside your normal practice pattern

What are the advantages of doing that "something extra"?

What are the possible adverse outcomes that might occur?

Can you identify why you have done this for this particular patient?

Can you deal with the possible patient expectations that might arise as a result of this? How might you do this?

Can you identify circumstances where doing the "something extra" might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?

9. Patients with whom you have used self disclosure

What are the advantages of using self disclosure?

What are the possible adverse outcomes that might occur?

Can you identify why you have done this for this particular patient?

Can you deal with the possible change in the doctor patient dynamic that might arise as a result of this? How might you do this?

Can you identify circumstances where self disclosure might be:

- Very acceptable?
- Acceptable?
- Borderline?
- Inadvisable?

What policies/rules/axioms might be useful to avoid these possible breaches of professional boundaries?