

TAVISTOCK POLICY SEMINARS

'CONNECTING PUBLIC POLICY AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS'

General Practice - Jewel in the Crown or Last Days of the Raj?

Presenters: Dr Steven Amiel
Dr John Launer

Date: 24 April 2008 (6pm - 8pm)

Venue: The Tavistock Centre, Lecture Theatre

We are witnessing changes in the health service that are unprecedented since 1948. The fundamental principle of a service free at the point of delivery is just about intact - for the moment. Otherwise, there appears to be an inexorable march towards the privatization of the provision of health care: competition, 'constructive discomfort' and fragmentation are now seen as key to driving standards in health care up and costs down.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in general practice, where a combination of a disastrous contract, legislative changes, a deliberate over-supply of labour, and a relentless campaign of denigration of GPs is being used to effect a fundamental shift in the nature and the delivery of general practice.

In this seminar Steven Amiel will examine the impact on general practice and patients of government agendas on access, extending opening hours, increasing patient choice and the quality framework.

GPs have always had an ambivalent relationship with the NHS and the Welfare State. Most have functioned as partners within small businesses that held contracts with the NHS, rather than being direct employees of the NHS. Traditionally, this 'independent contractor' status has been seen by the GP profession as a major strength. However, with the ideological reconstruction of the NHS as a commissioning agency rather than a direct provider, John Launer will argue that independent status may turn out to be GPs' Achilles' Heel. In retrospect, many of the NHS reforms over the past decade can be seen as preparing the ground for this.

Presenters

Stephen Amiel has been a GP principal at the Caversham Group Practice in Kentish Town for almost 30 years. For the past 10 years he has been Chair of Camden & Islington Local Medical Committee, representing all doctors in general practice.

Dr John Launer is a GP and Senior Clinical Lecturer at the Tavistock Clinic. He is also an Associate Director at the London Department of Postgraduate Medical Education (the London Deanery).

Programme

Seminars will begin at 6.00pm with the main presentations. There will be a short break for refreshments at 6.45pm after which the seminar will resume with an open dialogue and end with brief commentaries from the speakers.

Contact

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