

## What does a Statutory Duty of Candour mean for Health and Social Care?

The Department of Health is taking forward work to further embed a “being open” culture and develop a Statutory Duty of Candour for Health and Social Care (HSC). This will also apply to a wide range of organisations who deliver HSC services including Dentists, Dental Care Professionals and Dental Practice staff.

As part of this work, we are involving a wide range of people about what they think needs to happen to build on the existing culture and look at what steps are needed to overcome any barriers, or challenges, to being open. We are seeking to engage with the Dental profession and their practice staff to input into this work.

The aim is to ensure that we can be candid, especially when things go wrong, in order to learn from mistakes when they occur, and to create a more open culture, which will transform the experience of staff, service users and carers in the future. This all needs to be achieved in a way that will support both those who are responsible for managing and also those delivering services. Everybody will need trust and confidence in the system, staff as well as patients and carers.

The Department of Health is hosting a workshop to engage Dental professionals and their Practice staff to help further our thinking and understanding about what ‘being open’ and a Duty of Candour means for HSC. The workshop will take place on Wednesday 20 November at 6.30pm – 9pm at the Dunsilly Hotel, 20 Dunsilly Road, Antrim, BT41 2JH (refreshments will be available from 6pm). This workshop has been approved for 2 hours verifiable CPD meeting the GDC developments outcomes A and B.

Please register to attend at [here](#) or at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc-public-health-agency/c9456b85> by Friday 8 November. Places are limited.

This work is part of the recommendations arising from the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths, which recommended that a Duty of Candour be introduced. To implement this work, a Workstream has been established to consider how best to implement the Statutory Duty of Candour and take forward the recommendations to change the culture of health and social care services. Further information regarding the Statutory Duty of Candour and the wider Hyponatraemia Implementation Programme may be found at [here](#) or at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/hyponatraemia-implementation-programme>