

Local Counter Fraud Services —Newsletter

AUXILIARY NURSE, CARDIFF SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR FAILING TO DECLARE PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

An Auxiliary Nurse who worked in the Cardiff area was arrested for theft and the attempted use of a patient's debit card. It was also identified that the same individual had failed to declare, as was requested by the NHS Trust, any of their previous nine criminal convictions for twenty six offences, including theft, burglary, forgery, fraud and assault causing actual bodily harm. It was also identified that they used ten aliases when obtaining or attempting to

obtain other nursing posts within the NHS and the private sector across the UK. Following an 18 month investigation, the auxiliary nurse pleaded guilty of two charges of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception and was sentenced to two six month custodial sentences which are to run concurrently. A further count of attempting to obtain a pecuniary advantage by deception to which they pleaded not guilty is to remain on their file.



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STOP SMOKING FRAUD CLAIM PROBED

Evidence of irregularities in government programmes to help smokers quit has been uncovered by BBC London. The investigation suggested "Tobacco Advisors" has made false claims for money from local health authorities. The subject, of Kensington and Chelsea, West London, is accused of claiming £45 per person for people who say they had no involvement in the scheme. The subject denies any wrongdoing. The govern-

ment said NHS stop smoking services had been "hugely effective". A statement from the Department of Health said: This year £56m was allocated to the NHS for smoking cessation services. We know that NHS stop smoking services have been hugely effective in helping people quit. ParkHill Counter Fraud Services currently have investigations of a similar nature which are ongoing. If you have any information which could be helpful, please contact your LCFS at ParkHill.



Special points of interest:

- Fraudulent Visas
- Stop Smoking Fraud Claim Probed
- NFI
- Fraud Awareness Training

FRAUDULENT VISAS

Two staff members from one of ParkHill's Counter Fraud clients were dismissed in March this year for providing false information to the Trust regarding their right to work in the UK. The two investigations were entirely separate to each other. One subject provided a falsified letter from the Home Office to justify their right to work in the country, while the other subject failed

to disclose that their right to work was of a temporary nature. The LCFS investigated both matters as in both cases the subjects had deceived the Trust regarding their right to work. The LCFS liaised with the Home Office and the correct information was obtained and confirmed. Both subject's were spoken to by Trust management and instantly dismissed from their employment with the Trust.



NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE

The Counter Fraud Service is assisting NHS organisations with this year's National Fraud Initiative. This Initiative is the brainchild of the Audit Commission, an independent body responsible for ensuring that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively in order to achieve high quality local services for the public.

The Initiative involves matching information held by public bodies regarding, amongst other things, payroll information, visa information and details of any

benefits being paid.

The LCFS will be looking at examples of staff that work for more than one health body and staff that may not be legally entitled to work in the UK cause their visa status doesn't allow them to work or has expired.

The Initiative is designed to ensure that people working for public bodies are eligible to be working in the UK, that staff working for more than one employer are not exceeding the working time directive and staff work-

ing for another public body whilst sick from their substantive posts are discovered.

The exercise is due to run until January 2008 and the results will be published later on next year.



LOCAL RISK MEASUREMENT EXERCISE

A number of NHS organisations will be participating in this year's Local Risk Measurement Exercise which has been instigated by the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service. This exercise seeks to measure the risk of fraud in the procurement of good and services by the NHS and has been developed in consultation with a range of NHS

Procurement leads, Government departments and the LCFS stakeholder group.

Risk Measurement Exercises of this type are undertaken so that the nature and scale of fraud in the NHS can be measured. This will then enable strategic choices to be made on how issues surrounding fraud in procurement should be tackled.



FRAUD AWARENESS TRAINING

As part of the national Counter Fraud Strategy and the Counter Fraud Service delivered to your Trust, ParkHill provides Fraud Awareness Training. This training covers:

- What is Fraud?
- Gives examples of the types of fraud commonly encountered in the NHS.
- The National Counter Fraud Strategy.
- The role of the Local Counter Fraud Specialist.
- The role of the staff in countering fraud.
- What to do if fraud is suspected.

-Contact details for the reporting of suspected fraud

This training can be provided in a number of formats:

Induction Training - a 20 minute presentation giving an overview of the service during Trust induction training days, provision of a booklet summarising the service or a Fraud Awareness stand at Induction days manned by a Local Counter Fraud Specialist.

Fraud Awareness Training session - a 45 - 60 minute presentation includ-

ing time for questions and answers from the delegates.

Due to the nature of work in the Trust, it is not always possible for staff to attend fixed training sessions, therefore, ParkHill will tailor the training sessions to match your needs e.g. providing sessions at Departmental or Team Meetings, back-to-back sessions to allow all staff in the Department to attend.

If you require a training, contact your LCFS or contact ParkHill.



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**TO REPORT A SUSPICION OF FRAUD,
CALL YOUR LCFS AT
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