



**31 January 2012**

**Proposals for honesty about medical mistakes ‘don’t go far enough’**

All patients injured in medical blunders should receive an apology from the person who harmed them, a not-for-profit campaign group has told the Government.

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) has welcomed the Department of Health’s consultation on plans to introduce a duty of candour.

But the association says the proposals don’t go far enough as they exclude victims of minor injury and the proposed duty doesn’t apply to GPs and other medical professionals in primary and private care.

APIL president David Bott said: “In many instances, injured patients want nothing more than an apology and the peace of mind that other people won’t be harmed in the future.

“So the proposals to exclude victims of minor injury, from receiving what should be a common courtesy, seem completely unfair.

“The very least all injured patients deserve is a meaningful apology and an explanation of what went wrong and why.”



In its consultation response, APIL argued that the proposed duty should be placed on all health care professionals, regardless of which part of the health care system they work in.

“All medical professionals should be subject to the same obligations to ensure there is consistency across the board,” said Mr Bott. “It is imperative that there is transparency at every level.

“It’s also important that the proposed duty is on the negligent professional, not his employer. An injured patient needs to know that the person responsible for causing his injury is held to account properly and recognises the error that was made.”

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Notes to editors:

- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.
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