

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Consultant

You may already know about this case but I thought I should inform you in case it results in a complaint or claim. I believe your consultant colleagues are away.

Sandra Richards is 49. Last Sunday (Nov 4) she collapsed at home and was briefly unconscious and then seemed confused, vomited and had a headache. Her husband called an ambulance and she was taken to A&E.

At triage she was GCS 15 but hypertensive (BP 145/105). She was seen by an FY2 doctor who noted that Mrs Richards had collapsed while talking on the phone and then had a gradual onset of frontal headache. She was GCS 15 with no neck stiffness or photophobia and no neurological deficit.

Dr Westgate apparently diagnosed that she had had a faint and discharged her home.

Last night Sandra Richards was brought back to A&E after collapsing again with brief loss of consciousness. She was again GCS 15 on arrival and had a frontal headache but no neuro signs or meningism. She was admitted to MAU and observed overnight. I saw her on the post take ward round early this morning and arranged an immediate CT scan which showed a subarachnoid haemorrhage. She has been transferred to Neurosurgery at the Infirmary, but just after getting there she had a fit and lost consciousness. She is now in Neuro ICU.

Her husband is angry at the delays and the initial misdiagnosis of a faint. The prognosis would have been better if the SAH had been diagnosed and treated promptly.

I note incidentally in the A&E notes Dr Westgate wrote "Fundi not seen (no working ophthalmoscope)", and you may wish to follow this up.

Jeremy Newton  
Consultant in Acute Medicine.