

URGENT and CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Consultant

I am sorry to write like this rather than talk to you directly but I will have to rush off for a train as soon as my shift ends at 8 am and I won't be back till next week.

Paul Wellington was 31 and a local television journalist. He came here on Oct 14 because of sudden pain in his calf while playing squash. Laura (our ST1 Doctor) correctly diagnosed a ruptured Achilles. The Ortho Reg agrees and organised a long leg plaster with Fracture Clinic follow up.

Paul Wellington came back in a 999 ambulance at 1 am last Thursday (Nov 1). The ambulance report form says he had woken suddenly, breathless, sweating and dizzy. He had no chest pain. His pulse was 50 at first and later 68. He was given oxygen.

When he got here the triage nurse recorded that he felt better. Pulse was 61 BP 151/72, GCS 15 and SaO₂ 94% on air.

Laura saw him at 01:50 and he told her he felt back to normal. She found nothing wrong (except his leg was in a plaster). His ECG was normal and SaO₂ 97% on air. Laura apparently didn't see the ambulance notes. She thought he had just fainted and discharged him home at 4 am.

Early this morning this man collapsed at home. The paramedics tried to resuscitate him but he stayed in asystole. He was brought here at 2 am as Laura was finishing her shift. When she realised that she had seen him before and missed a PE she burst into tears and asked if she would be suspended and reported to the GMC. I said I would have a chat with her, but when I had finished talking to the pt's wife and writing the notes Laura had gone. I phoned her flat but there was no reply. She is due to go on holiday today.

I presume there will be an inquest and there may be a complaint or claim. I'm very sorry about all this. I hope Laura is OK.

Roger
EM SpR