

Public reprimand for Britannia

Britannia has been publicly reprimanded by the Code of Practice Appeal Board for its failure to have the necessary control of its activities with regard to compliance with the Code and its failure to provide a third party report when first requested at the audit required by the Code of Practice Appeal Board in relation to Case AUTH/3355/5/20.

In Case AUTH/3355/5/20 the Code of Practice Panel ruled breaches of the Code including two breaches of Clause 2 for unacceptable payments to health professionals for preparation time and without contracts in place, for failing to provide information to the Authority regarding a contract with a second health professional in a previous case (which was discovered in Case AUTH/3355/5/20) and for its arrangements for investigator led clinical trials including a failure to consider patient safety. The Panel also reported Britannia to the Appeal Board.

The Appeal Board was extremely concerned about the multiple failings and Britannia's lack of control, checks and oversight that had led to the rulings in this case including two separate rulings of a breach of Clause 2 and it therefore required an audit of Britannia's procedures in relation to the Code. On consideration of the audit report and the company's response to it the Appeal Board decided that Britannia should be publicly reprimanded as noted above and that Britannia should be re-audited. Given the exceptional circumstances of this matter, including the scale and seriousness of the difficulties at Britannia, the Appeal Board requested that certain senior employees should be invited to attend an Appeal Board meeting to discuss the Appeal Board's concerns.

Full details can be found in the interim case report.