

Clinical Vignettes

1. A colleague from your peer review group is going through a hard time in her personal life because of her son's recently diagnosed malignant illness. A close friend of yours is in therapy with her and your friend tells you that she is feeling increasingly depressed. She reveals that her therapist has been telling her about her personal worries with her son's illness.
2. Jan finished her therapy with therapist John about two years ago. John gets a phone call from Jan who says that she has heard that he and his wife have recently separated and she asks him to a party she is having adding that she has some single friends that he might like to meet.
3. Your patient, politician X, tells you that he has had compulsive paedophile desires for many years and has, in fact, acted on them a few times in the past without being detected. He is currently feeling very attracted to a neighbour's seven year old daughter.
4. Your patient tells you that she has had sexual contact with her previous therapist. After some discussion it appears that:
 - She experienced the previous therapy as helpful.
 - Her capacity to form an intimate sexual relationship had not improved and she had sought further therapy to help with this
 - Her previous therapist had been depressed and in the midst of a marriage breakdown. He had subsequently apologised to her.
5. Your patient informs you that next week he cannot make his session because he has to go to the funeral of a business colleague. There has been an agreement between you that he will pay for missed sessions. However he says he does not think it is fair that he has to pay in such circumstances as it is outside his control.
6. A therapist is at a dinner party with other therapists and their partners. She has a few drinks and starts telling anecdotes about her patients. She particularly talks about a woman patient whom she considers is caught up in an unsuitable relationship. She is quite derogatory about the partner and it is clear that she is actively encouraging her patient to leave the relationship.
7. A senior colleague phones you to voice his concerns about a patient of yours whose parents are known to him socially. He appears to consider that a second opinion is called for in the case because of his concerns about the effect of your patient's illness on the family and the possibility of a 'catastrophe' occurring without some external intervention. The patient is a borderline patient who you believe to be acting out because of your recent holiday.

8. Your patient tells you she is very worried about the possibility of her boyfriend suiciding. A friend of his has recently suicided and you consider, from your patient's description, that her boyfriend may be seriously depressed. He has refused all suggestions from her of seeking help for his depression. She asks you to intervene in some way to help.
9. You have suddenly become ill and need to go into hospital for an operation. You have not had time to prepare your patients for your absence. After the operation you require a more prolonged period of convalescence than you had expected.