
Recent iatrogenic events at UNM Neurosurgery.

From Bruce Wetherbee <editor@thecandlepublishing.com>

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To gharsh@salud.unm.edu <gharsh@salud.unm.edu>

Dr. Harsh,

Please provide a comment or call me regarding the following:

I understand that UNMH risk management and patient safety committee is in receipt of the information regarding a series of iatrogenic events with a patient, and wanted to give you an opportunity to comment on the matters described below.

I have been made aware of that a patient with a gunshot wound to the head, received emergency, life-saving neurosurgery at UNMH on July 21, 2025, and was recovering.

Then, the following day, when there was a change in the staffing, an on-call neurosurgeon made a decision to use an IRRFlow device without clear or accepted indications.

Furthermore, the device was placed by a resident in a manner allegedly resulting in an iatrogenic event; and there was a further iatrogenic event.

It is my understanding that there is concern by some medical personnel working with at UNM's neurosurgery team that there is inadequate supervision of residents during some of the complicated procedures performed at UNM neurosurgery, and that the event described above is a clear example.

You are likely aware that The Candle has reported on concerns raised by other medical personnel about alleged inappropriate use and insufficient training in regards to the use of the EVD known as IRRFlow.

I realize that you took over as Chair of UNM SOM Neurosurgery not that long ago, and will leave it to you to either provide a response directly or hand it on to the communications personnel at UNM HSC, who continue to avoid seriously responding to the concerns we have reported on in The Candle since last December.

The Candle is planning on publishing a story regarding matters that relate to the above, and other conditions of concern raised by medical personnel about patient safety; failure to properly consent patients, including those who may be considered marginally protected by society; and dwindling morale among caregivers due to the above.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wetherbee, editor

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