

The unintended consequences of this will be far reaching and detrimental to patient care in many ways. More defensive medicine will be practiced which will increase investigations and expense and will clog up services even more than they are already, home grown medical students and junior doctors will undoubtedly consider moving to England, Scotland and Wales and the numbers of doctors coming to study and work in NI will decrease.

There can be no opposition to a robust duty of candour by each and everyone of us who provide healthcare to patients but to bring in criminal sanctions when this happens nowhere else in the world will be detrimental for the health service in NI, which is already on its knees.