

Dr Robert William Howe MD FRCGP

General Practitioner Expert Witness

Woodclose, 21 North Street, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0EF

Tel: 01208 873787(h) / 07860801899 (m), e-mail: willhowe@btinternet.com

GMC No. 3249501 MDU No. 239069F

Current Post

I am currently a sessional GP with Kernow Health CIC having worked as a GP partner full time at Lostwithiel Medical Practice, Cornwall, for 28 years from 1995 to 2023. I also work as a GP expert witness.

Lostwithiel Medical Practice provides general medical services for 5000 patients in a rural setting in south east Cornwall. There are a range of clinical staff employed and there is a dispensary. We were inspected by the CQC in 2018 and rated as outstanding.

Lostwithiel Medical Practice works in collaboration with four other practices locally as part of the Bosvena and Three Harbours Primary Care Network serving a population of 42,000 patients.

Having worked as a GP partner providing clinical care to registered patients in hours and out of hours I am familiar with a wide range of clinical issues presented to the GP.

A range of NHS reforms provided the practice with the opportunity to improve the quality of patient care and provide out-patient clinics in orthopaedics from the surgery and a practice dementia project, shortlisted for the BMJ practice award 2013.

The surgery has been a GP training practice since August 2015, and I have supervised undergraduate medical students since 2005. I am a recognised GP trainer.

I have worked for two local Out of Hours companies providing GP clinical care in Devon and Cornwall and at present work for the Kernow Health Community Interest Company providing GP services in hours and out of hours.

Medical Qualifications

BM Southampton University (1987)

DRACOG (1991)

MRCGP (1992)

FP cert (1992)

MD Southampton University (1998)

Diploma in Urology (2006)

Honorary Research Fellow, Exeter Medical School, 2016-2019

FRCGP (2018)



Medico-legal Experience

Inspire Medilaw two day course, Oxford (November 2018).

This course is accredited by the Royal Society of Medicine and covered: Expert evidence - the law and practice; Report writing; Data protection for medico-legal experts; GMC workshop on acting as an expert witness; Addressing the legal issues in a claim and in a report; Expert witness meetings.

Seminar with Enable Law 2018, Plymouth (November 2018)

Inspire Medilaw Update 2020 & 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

Within the last 4 years I have written in excess of 200 reports for the following clients; the Medical Protection Society, the Medical Defence Union, Hill Dickinson, Blake Morgan, Kennedys, Shoosmiths, Weightmans, Enable Law, Capsticks, Bevan Brittan, DAC Beachcroft, Browne Jacobson and NHS Resolution.

I have experience of providing expert witness opinion at trial in February 2024 and in a Coroner's court in November 2024.

<https://newa.expert/expert-members/dr-will-howe/>

Medical Experience

Birmingham Accident Hospital, UK (1987)

A six month house officer job with front line exposure to trauma of all types.

Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, UK. 1988

A six month medical house officer job with general medical and eldercare experience.

Norman Bethune Medical School, Jilin Province, China (1988)

A six month teaching post in a Chinese medical school teaching physiology, English and aspects of clinical epidemiology to Chinese medical students.

Family Medical Services, Brisbane, Australia (1989)

A six month attachment to an after hours locum service in a large urban area providing experience in practicing medicine in a business setting.

Mater Hospital, Brisbane Australia (1989-1991)

18 months of senior house officer posts in a teaching hospital with rotations to A/E, intensive care, gynaecology, obstetrics and cardiology.

Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, Australia (1991)

A 12 month post with general paediatric experience, and neonatal work.

General Practice Registrar Year, Lostwithiel, Cornwall (1992)

An attachment to a rural practice with two partners.

General Practice locum work, Port Isaac Practice, Cornwall (1993-1994)

A regular summer locum job in a large rural practice.

Collaborative Projects

GP Prescribing Facilitator (1997)

Established One Stop Prostate Assessment Clinic (1998)

NHS R&D Research Practice (1999-2004)

Practice-Based Commissioning locality group (2004 – 2019). Achievements of service re-design include:

- Direct access ultrasound
- Direct access echocardiography
- Practice-based dementia nurse
- Visiting orthopaedic and gastroenterology consultants

Cancer Research UK – Sandpit workshop December (2015)
National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI), small project grant.

Primary Care Network – Bosvena and Three Harbours PCN 2019 to 2023

CQC rating Outstanding 2018

GP Patient Satisfaction Survey 2022 – the highest ranking in Cornwall

Academic and Educational Contribution

General Practice Research Fellow, Bristol University (1993-1995)

A thorough grounding in research methodology with responsibility for designing, executing and analysing a randomised controlled trial to examine the effectiveness of antibiotic in the treatment of sore throats in general practice.

My MD thesis *A study of sore throats in general practice* was published at the end of this post, 1998

Undergraduate clinical teacher (2003-2011)

Community Sub-Dean, Peninsula Medical School (2011)

Part of the senior management team within the medical school with responsibility for quality and performance of community teaching placements in Cornwall.

GP trainer (2015 – 2023)

General Practice Improvement Leaders Programme (Autumn 2016)

Supervision of a practice nurses to gain prescribing responsibilities (2017 & 2022)

Poster RCGP conference 2022 and Quality & Safety in Health Care Copenhagen 2023

The unidentified risks associated with prescribing long-term nitrofurantoin in general practice

Publications

Howe RW, Going, going, gone. BMJ 1989;Volume 299(6715):1611-1614

Howe RW, Prescribing antibiotics in general practice. (letter) BMJ 1994;308:1511

Howe RW, A study of sore throats in general practice. University of Southampton 1998 MD thesis

Howe RW, et al, A randomised controlled trial of antibiotic on symptom resolution in patients presenting to

their general practitioner with a sore throat. BJGP 1997;47:280-284
Howe RW, Sore throats and biased evidence.(letter) bmj.com/cgi/eletters/319/7203/173
Wilt TJ, Howe RW, Rutks IR, et al, Terazosin for benign prostatic hyperplasia. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2002;(4):CD003851
Wilt TJ, Howe RW, MacDonald R, Nelson D. Terazosin for treating symptomatic benign prostatic obstruction; a systematic review of efficacy and adverse effects. BJU International 2002;89:214-225
Howe RW, Haematuria (letter) Br.J.Gen.Pract.2002;52(479):498
Howe RW, Newport R, The management of Men with lower urinary tract symptoms in general practice; a quantitative and qualitative study. Remedy 2002;10:27-29
MacDonald R, Wilt TJ, Howe RW. Doxazosin for treating lower urinary tract symptoms compatible with benign prostatic obstruction; a systemic review of efficacy and adverse effects. BJU International 2004;94(9):1263-70.
Howe RW, Campbell J. A review of the Current Evidence and Interventions to Raise Awareness and Promote Early Diagnosis of Lung Cancer. Sept 09. A review commissioned by the Peninsula Cancer Network from the department of Primary Care, Peninsula Medical School.
Practice based dementia project

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/bright-ideas/dr-will-howe-dementia-service-quality-and-care-in-primary-care.aspx>

GPs: needs, wants, and bonds. R William Howe
Br J Gen Pract 2015; 65 (638): 452. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X686737>

Access to primary care Robert William Howe
Br J Gen Pract 2016; 66 (643): 68. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp16X683809>

Bad medicine: Spence and his spells. Robert William Howe
Br J Gen Pract 2017; 67 (656): 111. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp17X689569>

Current management of suspected sepsis in primary care. Motta, M., Wilcock M., Howe, W Sheehan R.
Prescriber Volume 34, Issue 6 June 2023

<https://wchh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/psb.2073>

Reducing unnecessary preoperative testing by asking doctors to do their own phlebotomy Howe, W. *letter* BMJ 2022; 379 :o2698

<https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2698.full>

Prescribing mistakes in primary care: individual or system error?

Howe RW, Wilcock M., Hughes, J

<https://dtb.bmj.com/content/63/11/168.full?ijkey=b6X1fNjrQMZhHgG&keytype=ref>