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REGULATING PATIENT SAFETY

Systematically improving patient safety is of the utmost importance, but it is also an extremely complex and challenging task. This illuminating study evaluates the role of professionalism, regulation and law in seeking to improve safety, arguing that the 'medical dominance' model is ill-suited to this aim, which instead requires a patient-centred vision of professionalism. It brings together literature on professions, regulation and trust, while examining the different legal mechanisms for responding to patient safety events. Quick includes an examination of areas of law that have received little attention in this context, such as health and safety law and coronial law, and contends in particular that the active involvement of patients in their own treatment is fundamental to ensuring their safety.

OLIVER QUICK is Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Bristol. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Criminal Law, Medical Law and Public Health Law. He has published widely in these areas, and is co-author (with Nicola Lacey and Celia Wells) of *Reconstructing Criminal Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). He has carried out original empirical research into how UK prosecutors and experts interpret the controversial crime of 'medical manslaughter'. He obtained his PhD thesis from the University of Wales, Cardiff, and has been a visiting scholar at the University of Western Australia, Boston University and the National University of Singapore.

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This series of books was founded by Cambridge University Press with Alexander McCall Smith as its first editor in 2003. It focuses on the law's complex and troubled relationship with medicine across both the developed and the developing world. Since the early 1990s, we have seen in many countries increasing resort to the courts by dissatisfied patients and a growing use of the courts to attempt to resolve intractable ethical dilemmas. At the same time, legislatures across the world have struggled to address the questions posed by both the successes and the failures of modern medicine, while international organisations such as the WHO and UNESCO now regularly address issues of medical law.

It follows that we would expect ethical and policy questions to be integral to the analysis of the legal issues discussed in this series. The series responds to the high profile of medical law in universities, in legal and medical practice, as well as in public and political affairs. We seek to reflect the evidence that many major health-related policy debates in the UK, Europe and the international community involve a strong medical law dimension. With that in mind, we seek to address how legal analysis might have a trans-jurisdictional and international relevance. Organ retention, embryonic stem cell research, physician assisted suicide and the allocation of resources to fund healthcare are but a few examples among many. The emphasis of this series is thus on matters of public concern and/or practical significance. We look for books that could make a difference to the development of medical law and enhance the role of medico-legal debate in policy circles. That is not to say that we lack interest in the important theoretical dimensions of the subject, but we aim to ensure that theoretical debate is grounded in the realities of how the law does and should interact with medicine and healthcare.

Series Editors

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REGULATING PATIENT SAFETY

The End of Professional Dominance?

OLIVER QUICK
University of Bristol

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521190992
DOI: 10.1017/9780511844386

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First published 2017

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Quick, Oliver, author.
Title: Regulating patient safety : the end of professional dominance? / Oliver Quick.
Description: Cambridge [UK] ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2017. |
Series: Cambridge bioethics and law ; 35
Identifiers: LCCN 2017000015 | ISBN 9780521190992 (hardback)
Subjects: LCSH: Medical errors – Prevention – Law and legislation. | Patients – Legal status, laws, etc. | Patients – Safety measures. | Medical care – Law and legislation. | Medical law and legislation.
Classification: LCC K3601 .Q85 2017 | DDC 344.04/1–dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2017000015

ISBN 978-0-521-19099-2 Hardback

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