



Pathology Biology Section - 2012

G118 Overview of Current Clinical Forensic Medical Practice in Beijing, China

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn the basic structure and jurisdiction of clinical forensic medicine in China. In addition, the education, training, and qualification of clinical forensic physicians will also be presented.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing participants with a deeper understanding of the role and scope of the specialty of clinical forensic medicine globally. This presentation will also demonstrate the interrelationship of the roles of clinical forensic medicine and forensic pathology.

Clinical forensic medicine refers to that subspecialty of forensic medicine that involves a wide range of activities at the interface of medicine and law. It generally involves the assessment and interpretation of the physical and mental conditions of living individuals. Clinical forensic medicine has become widely practiced in China in the last two decades.

A study was conducted on the current system of clinical forensic medical practice in Beijing, China. This study showed that there are 158 clinical forensic physicians certified by the Bureau of Justice in 14 offices in Beijing within five relatively independent agencies: private clinics, hospitals, government sponsored societies, department of forensic medicine in a university, and a forensic medical center. In addition, the police agency has its own clinical forensic physicians. The qualifications of clinical forensic physicians vary widely from agency to agency. The basic requirements for certifying as a clinical forensic physician are: (1) being a Chinese citizen with good moral standards, not having any felony convictions; and (2) having a bachelor's degree of medicine majoring in forensic medicine (BM Foren. Med) or Bachelor's degree in forensic sciences with on-the-job training in clinical forensic medicine for five years, or having a bachelor's degree of general medicine (BM) with working experiences in various clinical specialties and 240-hour special training in forensic medicine. In general, clinical forensic physicians do not deal with the deceased, and forensic pathologists do not deal with living individuals. However, in China, there are forensic pathologists who are involved in both the medico-legal death investigation and clinical aspect of the forensic medicine.

In 2010, a total of 38,759 cases were investigated by the clinical forensic physicians in the police agency and 16,107 cases were investigated by the clinical forensic physicians within the other 14 offices in Beijing. The services provided by the clinical forensic physicians mainly include: (1) documentation and interpretation of injuries due to physical assault, motor vehicle accident, and work; (2) examination of victims of sexual assault and the alleged perpetrators, (3) evaluation of the interaction of trauma and disease, (4) assessment of disability due to injuries, (5) investigation of personal damage due to medical malpractice, and, (6) examination of physical and mental status to determine the fitness to be interrogated by police or detained in police custody. Clinical forensic physicians also provide expert opinions/advice to court on the compensation of personal injuries in civil litigations. This presentation gives a general overview of current clinical medical practice in Beijing, China.

Clinical Forensic Medicine, Injury Assessment, Civil Litigation