

Medical Negligence Specialists

'5 Top Tips'

Medical Negligence - Do you have a case?

Visits to GPs and hospitals are often made when you're feeling unwell or have had an accident. In many cases it's just the visit you need to get back on track, but in some things don't always go to plan.

Pearson Hinchliffe Solicitors has developed a checklist for people on what to do if they feel they have been a victim of medial negligence.

Solicitor John Pollitt has over 25 years' legal experience and has been head of the Pearson Hinchliffe Medical Negligence department since 2005. He has successfully undertaken medical negligence claims relating to a wide variety of medical injuries including obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, ophthalmic surgery, spinal surgery, missed diagnosis, late diagnosis, inappropriate treatment, GP care and in 2000 was accredited by Action Against Medical Accidents as a clinical negligence specialist.

John has identified a number of actions to take should patients feel they have been a victim of medical negligence:

1. **Be assertive** - Don't be afraid to ask questions. If you feel you have been unfairly treated ask someone. Your first point of call should be the treating doctor who is required to answer your questions honestly.
2. **Don't be afraid to adopt the complaints procedure** – Every NHS provide has to have a complaints procedure. Making a complaint is a useful way of finding out more about what has gone on.
3. **Get a second opinion** - If you have lost confidence in the hospital providing care, ask your GP if it is appropriate to refer to a different hospital.
4. **Speak to a specialist solicitor** - Medical negligence claims are often complex and difficult to handle. This is mainly due to clinical aspects regarding the individual circumstances, which will depend on the evidence of medical experts and need to be backed up with learned texts and papers. Every case should always be handled by an experienced solicitor who has passed a rigorous assessment of his or her experience and skills. People should check for the relevant accreditation, such as approval by the Legal Services Commission or membership of the Action Against Medical Accidents Referral Panel.
5. **Legal Aid** - Legal Aid from the Legal Services Commission may be available to persons unable to afford to pursue claims. Check if your solicitor is authorised to apply for Legal Aid to fund medical negligence cases - there are not many in Greater Manchester. Alternatively, your solicitor may offer a Conditional Fee Agreement (CFA) which allows them to work on a 'no win - no fee' basis.

“Millions of people are treated by doctors and nurses every year, both private and under the NHS, who are generally regarded as providing an excellent, caring service for their patients. While most of this care is of the highest quality, there may be times when patients feel they have been wrongly treated. In these situations you are, at the very least, entitled to an explanation and you may be entitled to compensation.” [John Pollitt, Partner](#)

Who are Pearson Hinchliffe Solicitors?

Pearson Hinchliffe is a full-service law firm providing an extensive range of legal service to private and business clients in Oldham and North Manchester.

Their specialist Medical Negligence department helps many people each year to gain compensation for the injuries they suffer because of negligent or inappropriate treatment by medical or care professionals.

As one of the leading law firms in the North of England, Pearson Hinchliffe’s mission is be ‘the complete law firm’ providing the highest quality legal services to its clients. It does this by offering practical and cost effective, high quality legal advice for a wide range of clients. Each client is catered for as an individual with their business and personal requirements taken into account which allows for a highly personalised service.

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