The Leading GP Law Firm

Essential advice in challenging times

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LONDON | MANCHESTER | HARROGATE | NEWCASTLE
Leading Lawyers for General Medical Practitioners

A dedicated national team providing expert advice at the point of need

We have a large team of solicitors able to provide specialist advice to GPs. We act for thousands of GPs, together with many NHS bodies, Local Authorities, Social Enterprises, charities and private sector companies involved in health and social care. We offer guidance on the changing face of healthcare, including, in particular, the implications of the GP Forward View and of technology. We can help you exploit the new opportunities available to GPs, as well as offering practical solutions to assist in resolving the day to day problems that arise in a busy practice.

With over 30 years experience in the primary care sector, specialising in property and partnership/business law, Lynne has an in depth understanding of how the sector functions and of the concerns of those operating within it.

Lynne Abbess, Partner Head of Practitioner Team

Ross Clark, Partner Corporate

Graham Lea, Partner Premises

Jamie Foster, Partner Corporate/Commercial

Andrew Davidson, Partner Employment

Crispin Pettifer, Partner Construction/Commercial

Katherine Sheldrick, Partner GMC/Regulatory

Driven by a reputation for being the firm of choice for GPs, this group is recognised for its breadth of expertise and its great commitment to providing its clients with sound advice in plain English.
How we can help

Partnership agreements & disputes
We can assist you with the formation of your partnership and negotiating and documenting the engagement of new partners. We also handle complex and sensitive partnership disputes, acting for either the practice or the individual partner in guiding you through the entire process, including (where necessary) mediation, arbitration and court hearings and having regard always to the implications for your contractual relationship with NHSE/the CCG.

Practice sales, mergers & incorporations
We provide advice on the merger, incorporation and (where relevant) the sale of GP practices together with strategic advice on the transfer of GMS contracts and PMS Agreements. We liaise with your commissioning body and can provide assistance with locating a buyer for your practice or finding a practice to purchase and with the introduction to specialist tax advisors to achieve substantial tax savings. We can also advise sole principals on how best to structure an application for 24 hour retirement.

Employment
We advise on the full range of service requirements, to include employment contracts and procedures and the application and implication of the TUPE Regulations in the incorporation, sale or merger of practices, together with advice on disciplinary and redundancy procedures.

Property ownership/lease issues
As specialist premises are the pivotal part of any GP practice, it is essential to ensure both the ownership and occupation of your surgery is properly set up and documented. We provide advice on the acquisition and disposal of freehold or leasehold property, the negotiation of the complex documentation relating to new developments, cost rent advice and sales and purchases between partners. We also advise on declarations of trust which are an essential requirement to document the arrangements governing jointly owned/occupied premises.

Premises construction and/or refurbishment
Properly constructed and appropriately refurbished premises play an important part in improving the patient experience, as well as enabling you to maximise the range of services provided. To minimise risk, both the project structure and the interests of the GP practice need to be properly documented through the use of up-to-date and suitably amended construction contracts. We advise on the appropriate procurement route and on the most appropriate construction related contracts and securities package to utilise, as well as liaising with third party funders to make the project bankable for all interested parties concerned.

Contractual & Performers List issues
We advise practitioners on applications to join Performers Lists, and when action is proposed or initiated to remove or suspend a medical practitioner from the List. We also advise on the resolution of disputes arising from GMS contracts and PMS agreements.
GMC investigations
We provide advice on all GMC matters including performance reviews, registration appeals, specialist list appeals, and representation at fitness to practise hearings.

Clinical negligence claims
Our team, which includes dual qualified clinicians/lawyers who bring particular insight and understanding to the management of such claims, provides advice to doctors and other healthcare practitioners on the defence of clinical negligence claims and, where appropriate, when to seek early resolution.

GP participation in new care models
The GP Forward View and Multispecialty Community Provider Framework offer significant opportunities for GPs to play a leading role in the development of new care models in their STP areas. We advise on options for organisational form to deliver a new care model, including setting up consortia and joint ventures, and regulatory, procurement, contracting, workforce and estates issues.

Provider organisations
We advise both individuals and groups of practices on the options available to structure a provider organisation to deliver new services, including GP federations and super-practices. We also advise on joint ventures between GP federations, between practices for sharing resources and between practices and community pharmacy companies. Issues include workforce, NHS pensions, regulatory compliance, contracting, collaboration and competition, bidding for new contracts and securing intellectual property rights.

GPs as commissioners
We have an in-depth understanding of the commissioning of services by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England. We advise CCGs on commercial, governance, employment and estates issues, including the roles of GPs within CCGs. This includes advising on statutory issues, conflicts of interest, and the procurement of services, in particular mitigation of risk.

Commercial contracts and procedures
We have an established reputation for providing commercially focused, practical legal advice on commercial contracts and procedures. All commercial contracts carry a degree of risk, irrespective of their contractual value and term. We can draft, review and negotiate commercial contracts on your behalf, as well as provide succinct and practical advice on the correct contractual mechanism to follow, thus minimising contractual risk to your GP practice.

Free legal helpline
We offer a legal helpline offering a free initial telephone conversation with a solicitor to discuss any of these issues.
Dial 020 7839 0278 and ask for the GP Advice Line for 10 minutes free preliminary advice.

An utterly fantastic team who work well together to deliver world-class results
Chambers UK

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