

Patients' Rights, Access to Justice and the Case for Candour

4 November 2013, Morrison Hotel, Dublin

Access to justice is vital for patients and their families who suffer injuries or die as a result of deficiencies in our health care system. Trust is at the heart of the doctor-patient relationship and thus if a medical accident or negligence occurs the patient is entitled to be told by their doctor what went wrong and how it happened. Instead, what usually happens is that there is a policy of "deny and defend everything" and this corrodes and eventually destroys the doctor-patient relationship, causing more harm to doctor and patient alike. Where there is no effective system of civil legal aid for medical negligence claims, the patient faces a 'David and Goliath' battle.

This joint conference hosted by Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) and Medical Injuries Alliance (MIA) considers the barriers to justice for those affected by medical negligence in Ireland, the costs associated with the current system and considers a favourable alternative. Delegates will learn that the case for candour is a compelling one.

Conference Programme

09.15 Registration and refreshments

10.00 Chair's Welcome and Introduction
Peter Walsh, Chief Executive,
Action against Medical Accidents

10.10 The Honourable Mr Justice Liam McKechnie,
Judge of the Supreme Court

- The risk of access to justice being compromised
- Reforms in the UK – Lord Jackson
- Proposed amendments to court rules by report of judicial working group to encourage early disclosure of all relevant issues and early settlement of medical negligence actions

10.55 The economic cost of medical accidents and what are the potential savings that could be made?
Moore McDowell, Economist, UCD School of Economics

11.40 Refreshments

12.00 Open disclosure of medical accidents - the Irish experience
Ann Duffy, Clinical Indemnity Scheme,
State Claims Agency

12.45 Lunch



13.45 Dr. Timothy McDonald, Professor of Anaesthesiology and Paediatrics at University of Illinois, Chicago & Chief Safety and Risk Officer for Health Affairs for the University of Illinois, Chicago

- How defence in every case drives up cost
- Why it is relevant in Ireland, with reference to the policy of the State defending claims
- How the "Seven Pillars" positively impacted on patient safety and costs in University of Illinois
- How Ireland could benefit from the introduction of system grounded in 'honesty and transparency' from both cost and patient safety perspective

14.45 The ongoing need for candour, the aftermath of the Jackson Reforms and patients' access to justice
Peter Walsh, Chief Executive,
Action against Medical Accidents

15.15 Patients' Stories
Two patients will tell the conference of their experiences both in terms of interaction with the medical/hospital community, but also with the legal world. They will address the human cost of the 'defend and deny' policy.

15.45 Discussion

16.05 Chair's Closing Remarks

16.10 Refreshments and networking

Delegate booking form

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Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS and return [one form per person](#). We accept photocopies of this booking form or you can download from www.avma.org.uk/events.

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Delegate Details:

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof. (Please circle)

First Name:

Surname:

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Please specify any special dietary or special requirements:

Where did you hear about this event:

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**Please keep your card details safe.
Never send card information via email.**

Registration fees:

AvMA Lawyers' Service & MIA Members; Public Sector €150
Standard Rate; Private Sector €200
Members of public who have been affected by medical negligence €30

Fees include refreshments, a light lunch and course notes, which will be e-mailed to delegates.

I agree with the terms & conditions of booking.

Signature:

Date:

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF BOOKING CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING

If you have not received confirmation of your booking fourteen days after registering please contact us on +44 (0)20 8688 9555. Upon receipt of your booking, AvMA will issue a VAT receipt for your payment. The venue information and final details will be sent approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the event. Please note that full payment must reach AvMA before the conference takes place for admission to be given.

CANCELLATIONS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Cancellations must be confirmed in writing at least 10 working days before the conference and each delegate place will be liable for a €50.00 administration fee. Any cancellations received after this date will be liable for the full fee and course notes will be sent on. Delegates who are unable to attend due to circumstances beyond AvMA's control and who have not cancelled in advance will still be liable for the full fee and course notes will be sent on. No refunds will be given. Delegate name changes may be made at any time at no extra charge.

INDEMNITY

It may be necessary to change the content and timing of the programme, speakers or venue due to circumstances beyond the control of AvMA. We reserve the right to cancel the conference if absolutely necessary and issue a full refund of conference fees. AvMA accept no liability if, for whatever reason, the conference does not take place.

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