

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE CONFERENCE



Breaking Point: Navigating the Complexities of Orthopaedic Clinical Negligence



Wednesday, 5th November 2025



9.00am – 4.20pm



St George's Hall, Great George Street, BS1 5RR

CPD
accredited:
5 hours

Our Clinical Negligence team invite you to join us for this year's annual conference, focused on the theme of '**Breaking Point: Navigating the Complexities of Orthopaedic Clinical Negligence**'.

Peak[★] Costs

This one-day conference is designed for claimant and defendant **clinical negligence lawyers** of all seniority and will be focusing on claims arising from orthopaedic care and treatment. In 2023/2024, orthopaedic claims made up 8.6% of all claims notified to the NHS in England. It remains a key discipline in clinical negligence litigation.

The conference, kindly sponsored by **Peak Costs**, will feature talks from our specialist Clinical Negligence barristers at St John's Chambers, as well as from experts in **orthopaedic surgery** and **radiology**. There will be insights on claims involving **prosthetics**, an update on recent **case law**, as well as practical guidance on bringing and defending orthopaedic **surgical claims**. The day will also include a **discussion** with an orthopaedic expert on condition and prognosis reports, as well as guidance on dealing with protected party and infant claims.

Raffle proceeds go to

sia in aid of
spinal
injuries
association
for life after spinal cord injury

Drinks sponsored by

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Programme

9.00 – 9.30	Registration and refreshments
9.30 – 9.50	Welcome and sponsor comments from Peak Costs Justin Valentine, Head of Clinical Negligence team & Louise Asprey, Deputy Head of Clinical Negligence team and Kris Kilsby, Peak Costs
9.50 – 10.30	Spinal and skeletal radiology errors Dr James Rankine, Consultant Radiologist at Leeds General Infirmary and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology at the University of Leeds. The cauda equina syndrome can lead to a lifetime of significant morbidity for the patient if it is not treated by urgent surgical decompression. Surgery relies on there being an appropriate surgical target, so radiology is key to the correct diagnosis and treatment. Accident and emergency departments are busy places, where seemingly minor fractures can be overlooked, but this can lead to accelerated degeneration and long-term pain for the patient. Computers don't get stressed or overworked, so AI is set to play a major role in detecting fractures, but exactly what role is yet to be determined.
10.30 – 11.00	Problems with prosthetics Justin Valentine, Head of Clinical Negligence team, Barrister
11.00 – 11.15	Break & Refreshments
11.15-11.55	Discussion: outcomes of elbow, wrist and hand problems Grey Giddins, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon with Rhodri Jones and Rachel Segal, Barristers
11.55-12.25	Part 21: A practical guide Sophie Howard and Jimmy Barber, Barristers Jimmy and Sophie will discuss the applicable rules and practical steps to take in claims involving children and protected parties

Programme

12.25-13.10	Lunch
13.10-13.20	Spinal Injuries Association Gaynor Thompson, Regional Support Coordinator
13.20-13.50	Common issues in adult and children orthopaedic claims Lauren Karmel and James Hughes, Barristers James and Lauren will cover practical guidance in running and defending orthopaedic surgical claims, focusing specifically on lower limb orthopaedic cases and claims concerning hip dysplasia in newborns.
13.50-14.30	Clinical negligence case law update Louise Asprey and Beatrice Baskett, Barristers A review of the latest case law influencing the assessment of quantum and liability in clinical negligence claims.
14.30-14.45	Break & Refreshments
14.45-15.25	Common foot and ankle missed diagnoses and their long term implications Nick Talbot, Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre
15.25-15.55	Quantum trends in orthopaedic clinical negligence cases: care, therapy, equipment and aids. James Marwick, Deputy Head of Personal Injury
15.55	Drinks Reception and Raffle - sponsored by Partners in Costs (PIC)

Experts



Dr Rankine

Consultant Radiologist

Dr Rankine is a Consultant Radiologist at Leeds General Infirmary and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology at the University of Leeds. He is an expert in all aspects of MSK radiology with a particular interest in spinal imaging. He is the lead radiologist for one of the largest multi-disciplinary spine meetings in the country which combines neurosurgical and orthopaedic spinal surgeons. Dr Rankine has been working in medical-legal practice for over 20 years, giving evidence in court on a range of MSK conditions in the fields of personal injury and medical negligence. He has a particular interest in the cauda equina syndrome, taking equal instructions from the claimant and the defence.



Nick Talbot

**Consultant Trauma and
Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Mr Nick Talbot is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon based at the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre in Exeter where he is currently the Clinical Director. His particular area of expertise is foot and ankle surgery having undertaken specialist fellowship training in Oxford, Bristol and Seattle. He is the club foot and ankle surgeon for Exeter Chiefs Rugby and other professional sports teams. He has over 20 years experience of producing general orthopaedic trauma personal injury reports and has a clinical negligence practice focused on foot and ankle issues



Grey Giddins

**Consultant Orthopaedic
surgeon**

Prof Giddins has worked as an Orthopaedic and Hand surgeon in Bath since 1995. He has a strong portfolio of research with over 150 publications in peer reviewed journals as well as editing 5 books and writing 16 book chapters. He is also a visiting professor in the Mechanical Engineering department at the University of Bath. He has undertaken medico-legal reports for over 30 years and published over ten papers relating to medico-legal topics. He was President of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand in 2017, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hand Surgery (European) from 2012-2016 and a Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2022.

Barristers

“One of the ‘go-to’ clinical negligence sets on the Western Circuit and beyond.”

The Legal 500, 2024

With 17 barristers, we are the leading **Clinical Negligence** set in the South West with an enviable reputation for the breadth of expertise within this specialist team.



Justin Valentine
Head of Clinical Negligence

Year of call: 1999

“Justin is a strong and astute advocate who has good levels of awareness and can judge the mood of the courtroom. He is empathetic with clients and appropriate with witnesses in examination and cross-examination.” The Legal 500, 2025

Justin has been ranked as a Tier 1 Legal 500 clinical negligence specialist for several years. He acts almost exclusively for claimants in cases of significant value. He specialises in cauda equina syndrome cases and is credited as a contributor to the GIRFT National Suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome Pathway. Justin has particular interest in obstetrics and gynaecology cases where consent issues are often present. He has extensive experience of a range of clinical negligence cases including sepsis, necrotising fasciitis, delayed diagnosis of cancer and diabetes cases and is instructed by many of the leading firms in clinical negligence.



Louise Asprey
Deputy Head of Clinical Negligence

Year of call: 2007

“Louise is an effective performer, able to balance robust positions for her clients, while being sensitive to the necessary style of inquest advocacy. ‘She is a pleasure to work with - very sensible and straightforward.’” Chambers UK 2025

Louise is the Deputy Head of the Clinical Negligence team and has extensive experience of acting for both individuals and health providers in clinical negligence claims involving a wide variety of injury and allegations of breach. Louise has particular experience of representing interested persons at lengthy inquests and then seeing the matter through to the conclusion of the civil claim, using the information gleaned from the inquest itself, to inform the progression of those claims.

Barristers



Jimmy Barber
Year of call: 2008

“Jimmy is a first-rate barrister and a go-to expert in the field. He is wise beyond his years of call and can quickly identify the key issues in a case.” The Legal 500, 2025

Jimmy has experience of a wide array of areas of medicine and dentistry and acts for claimants, clinicians and healthcare providers. He has advised on cases involving delays in diagnosis, injuries caused by or during surgery, failure to obtain proper consent, inadequate nursing care and medication errors. He has significant experience in cases involving the failure to diagnose and treat emergency conditions such as oesophageal perforation, acute angle closure glaucoma, ischaemic priapism, appendicitis and intra-abdominal sepsis; and he has advised on high value claims involving delays in carrying out thoracic decompressive laminectomy leading to neurological compromise, and the failure to treat serious infection in the foot leading to an above knee amputation. He is also very knowledgeable in claims under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and the LRMPA 1934 following medical errors.



James Marwick
Year of call: 2008

“James is very approachable and willing to fight a challenging case. He is an excellent advocate who pays great attention to detail and can get to the heart of the matter.” The Legal 500, 2025

James is ranked as a leading junior in clinical negligence by The Legal 500. He acts for both claimants and defendants in a wide range of clinical negligence matters but with a particular specialism in cauda equina and spinal surgery cases, and those arising out of negligent obstetric & gynaecological care. James has significant trial experience and is well versed in the cross examination of medical experts. He is often instructed where there are complex medical issues on causation including the delayed diagnosis of cancer and delay in the delivery room. His work will often include acting as sole junior for claimants and defendants where there have been life changing consequences as a result of medical treatment. James is particularly strong on quantum including the presentation of career and life time losses, including pension losses and care/OT claims.



James Hughes
Year of call: 2011

“James has a keen eye for detail and provides thorough advice. His pleading of court documents is thorough and concise. He is good on his feet in trials, especially in getting the point across clearly and concisely.” The Legal 500, 2025

James is a specialist clinical negligence practitioner. He acts for both claimants and defendant trusts and clinicians, and is regularly in cases where there is more than one defendant. Recent work includes:

- Injury to external iliac artery during laparoscopic sterilisation surgery.
- Wrongful or late cancer diagnosis (including, most recently, brain tumours in an adolescent claimant and oesophageal cancers in adult claimants).
- Negligent prescription of opioid analgesics.
- Missed cholesteatoma diagnosis.
- Colorectal and gastrointestinal sepsis.

Barristers

“To class Rachel as exceptional is to merely scratch the surface. Rachel has a gift for articulating complex issues and distilling intricate matters into understandable concepts.” Chambers UK 2025



Rachel Segal
Year of call: 2013

Rachel is recognised as a leading junior in Clinical Negligence (The Legal 500). She enjoys working across the spectrum of medical law for both claimants and defendants and is particularly sought after for cases involving delayed diagnosis and treatment of cancers (primary and metastatic disease), colorectal and gastrointestinal surgery and obstetrics/gynaecology. She has a special interest in breast cancer cases. Recent instructions include cases (for claimants and defendants) in the fields of:

- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- General/GI surgery
- General Practice
- Geriatrics
- Cosmetic Procedures
- Dentistry
- Obstetrics/midwifery



Sophie Howard
Year of call: 2016

Sophie accepts instructions for claimants and defendants in clinical negligence work. Sophie drafts pleadings and advises on quantum in all areas of medicine including dental negligence, delayed diagnosis of cancer and alleged negligence in cardiac surgery. Sophie has an interest in inquest work and accepts instructions to represent interested persons at inquests and pre-inquest review hearings. Sophie is developing her practice in professional regulation in a medical setting. She also has an interest in professional negligence cases brought against legal professionals in the personal injury context.



Rhodri Jones
Year of call: 2017

“Rhodri has an excellent knowledge of inquests and the coronial process.” The Legal 500, 2025

Rhodri specialises in clinical negligence, acting for both claimants and defendants. Before retraining as a barrister, Rhodri practised as a medical doctor for 18 years, principally in A&E and general practice. His wealth of knowledge and clinical experience enables him to quickly grasp the relevant issues in all aspects of medical law. Recent experience includes advising and drafting statements of case in relation to claims in general practice, anaesthetics, cardiology, endocrinology, oncology, obstetrics, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, general surgery, and dentistry. He is regularly instructed to draft schedules and counter schedules.

Rhodri is the author of *“A Practical Guide to Material Contribution in Clinical Negligence”* published by Law Brief Publishing in September 2023.

Barristers / Sponsor

“Lauren has an eye for detail and can be relied upon as an advocate to ensure the family’s questions and concerns are central in the process.” The Legal 500, 2025



Lauren Karmel
Year of call: 2017

Lauren is ranked as a leading junior (Tier 2) in The Legal 500 2024 and 2025 guides, and is a specialist clinical negligence and inquests barrister. In clinical negligence, she acts for hospitals, individual clinicians and for patients in all areas of medicine. She is frequently instructed to advise on and negotiate settlements in high-value claims. She has been praised for her ability to provide “clear and pragmatic advice”. Lauren has a strong paper-based practice in all areas of medicine, including oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, obstetrics and emergency medicine. She has a special interest in provisional damages claims, and is happy to consider instructions on a CFA. Lauren also regularly appears for families and healthcare providers in inquests, including those where Article 2 is engaged. Lauren is described as a barrister who is “calm and collected in Court, persistent with difficult witnesses, organised, thorough over the details and has one of the best bedside manners with clients that I have seen. Her ability far exceeds her years”. She is often instructed in the event of any subsequent civil claim. Lauren provides regular training to firms of solicitors on the engagement of Article 2 in the context of healthcare inquests.

“Beatrice is extremely personable and is a natural when communicating with clients in often very difficult circumstances. She is efficient with a great eye for detail and one of the most responsive barristers I have instructed.” Instructing Solicitor



Beatrice Baskett
Year of call: 2021

Beatrice has a busy clinical negligence practice and is instructed in a broad range of cases, including orthopaedic, delayed diagnosis, dental treatment and fatal accident claims. Her clinical negligence work is complemented by her expanding inquest practice, where she frequently provides representation in civil claims brought following the conclusion of the inquest. She is praised by her instructing solicitors for bringing a depth of experience and perspective that far exceeds expectations for her level of call. Beatrice has recently co-hosted a new podcast feature on the St John’s Chambers’ ‘Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Pod’ interviewing medical professionals about their medico-legal practices. The first episodes in the series are in conversation with a Consultant Anaesthetist and Consultant Plastic Surgeon. She is the Legal Secretary for the Bristol Medico-Legal Society. She enjoys organising the society talks and meeting professionals based in Bristol.



Kris Kilsby
Peak Costs

Kris is a Costs Lawyer with over 10 years’ experience in a wide range of areas of costs from inter partes to Court of Protection costs. Kris started working in costs at a specialist clinical negligence practice where he was involved in the preparation of Bills of Costs and Cost Budgets. Since moving to Peak Costs (formerly Paramount Legal Costs), Kris has continued to deal with all matters relating to costs arising from complex clinical negligence cases, including birth injury cases, to catastrophic brain injury cases – this has included attending CCMC Hearings to deal with specific cost budgeting issues. Kris is also involved in negotiating costs whether it is the preparation of Points of Reply or attending detailed assessments and JSMs to attempt to resolve the issue of costs on an inter partes basis. Kris’ Court of Protection experience also means that he is well-versed in the nuances that can arise when deductions from damages are sought from Claimants, Children and Protected Parties alike. Kris is currently a member of the Association of Costs Lawyer council and works within the policy sub-committee which involves preparing responses to consultations that impact the world of costs. Kris is also CLSB accredited in order to provide CPD compliant training and heads up Peak’s internal and external training provision.

EXHIBITORS

The logo for PIC consists of the letters 'PIC' in a bold, rounded font with a purple-to-pink gradient.

partners in costs

Your Costs Experts

The logo for Peak Costs features the word 'Peak' in a dark teal font with a small teal starburst above the 'k', and the word 'Costs' in a larger, bold, dark teal font below it.

CHROMA

realising potential through creativity

The logo for 'sia' features the lowercase letters 'sia' in a bold, dark blue font. To the right of 'sia' is the text 'in aid of spinal injuries association' in a smaller, blue font. Below this is the tagline 'for life after spinal cord injury' in a bold, dark red font.The logo for IML features a stylized orange arrow pointing upwards and to the right, positioned above the letters 'IML' in a bold, dark blue font. Below 'IML' is the text 'Inspire MediLaw' in a smaller, grey font.

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