

Call for new expert witnesses

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) was originally established in 1982. It is the UK patient safety charity specialising in advice and support for patients and their families affected by medical accidents.

Since its inception AvMA has through its free helpline, Advice & Information and pro bono inquest services provided support to over 100,000 people affected by medical accidents.

AvMA assesses solicitors based on their experience and expertise for eligibility for the AvMA panel. The panel is AvMA's way of ensuring that members of the public who believe they have a claim in clinical negligence can be referred to lawyers specialising in this field.

Our panel solicitors weed out the weak cases making sure, so far as is possible, that unmeritorious claims are not brought and that those who are eligible to bring a claim have the best chance of securing a swift resolution to their case with an award of damages befitting their injury.

The medico legal expert plays a crucial role in helping solicitors identify the merits of their case.

AvMA has a dedicated lawyers service with in excess of 2,000 lawyer members who regularly request medico-legal expert recommendations from our database of experts. Our database holds details of medico legal experts practising in all fields of medicine.

We are constantly looking to add to our existing list of experts in all areas of medicine but in particular we are currently looking to add to our list of approved experts in the areas of specialism set out at the end of this leaflet.

Have you ever thought about becoming an expert witness but are not sure what is involved?

We recognise that it can be daunting for professionals to take this step but we will offer support and information to help you decide whether expert witness work is for you. If you do decide that this is something you would like to take further then we can offer continued support and help with training to assist you in meeting the standards expected of an expert witness.

AvMA criteria for medico legal expert work

Our experts must be able to offer independent, impartial views on whether treatment provided fell below an acceptable standard of care. We expect our experts to do both claimant and defendant work as we are looking for professionals who can offer an unbiased view of the facts of any given case.

We recommend that you have at least 5 years' experience in your field and that you have reached consultancy level or equivalent

If you would like to know more about being an expert witness then do not hesitate to contact, Lisa O'Dwyer, Director Medico-Legal Services:

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A copy of this leaflet can be found on the AvMA website at: www.avma.org.uk/information-for-medical-experts

A list of experts required is overleaf

Medico legal expertise is required in the following areas

We are currently particularly interested in adding to our data base of experts generally but experts with the following specialism are especially required. We have also identified the geographic areas of England and Wales (Wales comes within the South West region) where experts are in particular demand.

Specialism	Region required
Anaesthetists – pain management	Particularly those practising in South West England
Breast surgeons	North West, South West, North East and Midlands
Care of the elderly physicians	North West, North East, Midlands and London
Dermatologists	All areas, particularly North West and South West
Ears, nose and throat	South West
Gastroenterologists	South West
Histopathologists and pathologists	All regions
Immunologists	All regions
Neurologists	Particularly South West and London
Neurophysiologists	North, Midlands and South West
Obstetrics and gynaecology – fertility	All regions
Oncologists – particularly those specialising in bone tumours and melanoma	All regions
Ophthalmology – particularly vitreo-retinal	All regions
Orthopaedics	
• Knee specialists	Particularly in South West
• Joint replacement	Particularly North West and South West
• Shoulders	Particularly in North West, South West and Midlands
• Spinal	North West and South West
Paediatric specialists	
• Paediatric cardiothoracic surgeon	All regions
• Paediatric dermatology	All regions
• Paediatric endocrinology	All regions
• Paediatric gastroenterology	All regions
• Paediatric haematology	All regions
• Paediatric neurology	All regions particularly South West and North West
• Paediatric ophthalmology	North West, South West and Midlands
• Paediatric orthopaedics	North West
• Paediatric urology	Have some but need more – all regions
Prosthetics	Particularly in London, North West and North East
Rehabilitation medicine	All regions
Stroke physicians	All regions
Urologists	Particularly in North East and South West
Vascular surgeons	Particularly North West
Nursing specialisms:	
• Health visitors, district nurses, orthopaedic nurses and paediatric nurses	All regions
Other:	
• Chiropractor	All regions