

10 December 2014

House of Commons hears MPS's concerns that Medical Innovation Bill could increase uncertainty

At a House of Commons Adjournment debate yesterday, the Medical Protection Society's (MPS) concerns that the Medical Innovation Bill is unnecessary and could increase uncertainty were raised.¹

These concerns were highlighted by the Chair of Health Select Committee, Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, who also questioned one of the key reasons for the Bill being to reduce medical litigation, and made clear that MPS believes there is no need for it.

Dr Pallavi Bradshaw, Medicolegal Adviser at MPS said:

"We are pleased to see that the 'Saatchi Bill' has ignited a debate in the House of Commons. Fundamentally, current law already allows doctors acting responsibly to innovate, and this Bill is unnecessary.

"We have serious concerns that this Bill could give false reassurance to some doctors and hinder current responsible innovation, which in turn would damage the doctor-patient relationship.

"The fear of litigation being a key reason for the Bill is entirely at odds with MPS's experience of clinical negligence issues. We have never previously been made aware of any concerns that doctors are failing to be innovative due to a fear of clinical negligence claims.

"The time has come for the debate to shift towards improving education about the present law, rather than confusing the law through a new piece of legislation."

Ends

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Notes to editors:

¹ To read more about the House of Commons Adjournment debate on 'Patient Safety and Medical Innovation' [click here](#)

About MPS

MPS is the world's leading protection organisation for doctors, dentists and healthcare professionals. We protect and support the professional interests of more than 290,000 members around the world. Our benefits include access to indemnity, expert advice and peace of mind. Highly qualified advisers are on hand to talk through a question or concern at any time.

Our in-house experts assist with the wide range of legal and ethical problems that arise from professional practice. This includes clinical negligence claims, complaints, medical and dental council inquiries, legal and ethical dilemmas, disciplinary procedures, inquests and fatal accident inquiries.

Our philosophy is to support safe practice in medicine and dentistry by helping to avert problems in the first place. We do this by promoting risk management through our workshops, E-learning, clinical risk assessments, publications, conferences, lectures and presentations.

MPS is not an insurance company. All the benefits of membership of MPS are discretionary as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.