

23 October 2014

## **Medical Innovation Bill a serious threat to doctor-patient relationship, says MPS**

**Ahead of the debate in the House of Lords on Friday 24 October, the Medical Protection Society (MPS) reiterates its opposition to the Medical Innovation Bill as it has the danger to inhibit responsible innovation, give false reassurance to doctors, and damage the doctor-patient relationship.**

### **Dr Nick Clements, Head of Medical Services at MPS said:**

“The Medical Innovation Bill places unrealistic demands on doctors and is a serious threat to the doctor-patient relationship.

“The high level of publicity surrounding the Bill adds to the ever growing risk that there will be false perception amongst patients that all innovative treatments are readily available for the taking. This is simply not the case. Not all doctors have an understanding of every possible treatment, nor will they be obligated to provide them. It will be for the doctor to explain this to a patient who was lead to believe otherwise, undermining the trust and cooperation that must underpin a strong and trusting doctor-patient relationship.

“An investigation of all potential barriers to responsible innovation may well be needed. This Bill is not.”

ENDS

**For further information or to interview Dr Clements please contact Stella-Maris Zegge, Press Officer at MPS on +44 207 399 1439 or email [stella.zegge@mps.org.uk](mailto:stella.zegge@mps.org.uk)**

Notes to Editor

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## About MPS

The Medical Protection Society is the leading provider of comprehensive professional indemnity and expert advice to doctors, dentists and health professionals around the world.

We are a mutual, not-for-profit organisation offering more than 290,000 members help with legal and ethical problems that arise from their professional practice. This includes clinical negligence claims, complaints, medical council inquiries, legal and ethical dilemmas, disciplinary procedures, inquests and fatal-accident inquiries.

We actively protect and promote the interests of members and the wider profession and we promote safer practice by running risk management and education programmes to reduce avoidable harm.

MPS is not an insurance company. The benefits of membership are discretionary - this allows us the flexibility to provide help and support even in unusual circumstances.