

Circle Reading and Consultants

Introduction

Consultants are critical to the care patients receive at Circle Health Group. However, in common with other private healthcare operators and in most instances, Circle Health Group does not employ these consultants. Instead, most consultants working in our hospitals are self-employed practitioners who see and treat patients at our hospitals under the terms of our “Practising Privileges” policy.

In 2014, the Competition and Markets Authority issued an Order (the “**CMA Order**”) regulating the relationships between private hospital groups and consultants who have Practising Privileges or treat private patients or refer them for tests at group facilities (“**Referring Clinicians**”).

In accordance with the CMA Order, hospital operators are prohibited from entering into any incentive schemes that are designed to encourage Referring Clinicians to refer private patients to, or treat private patients at, their facilities. Circle Health Group does not operate any such schemes. The Order also requires hospital operators to disclose information about certain arrangements they have with Referring Clinicians, including: ownership interests held by Referring Clinicians in the hospital operator or in equipment used in the hospital; the provision of certain “high value” services to Referring Clinicians; the availability of “low value” basic amenities for Referring Clinicians; and any remuneration for services provided by Referring Clinicians to the hospital. Set out below is information about the common arrangements we have with Referring Clinicians. Further details are also available on our individual hospital webpages.

Higher Value Services

We charge our Referring Clinicians (and other non-employee healthcare professionals such as GPs, dieticians, and podiatrists) for using consulting rooms at our hospitals and for medical secretarial services we provide to them. Referring Clinicians are not charged for their use of consulting rooms and/or hospital medical secretarial services in respect of their NHS patients. We also charge for rooms at the hospitals used by Referring Clinicians’ own medical secretaries

At Circle Reading, we charge our Referring Clinicians £11 per hour for use of consulting rooms. We also charge £18.00 (ex-VAT) per hour, depending on experience, for secretarial services at Circle Reading.

Lower Value Services

We provide a number of support services to our Referring Clinicians, for which we do not make a charge. Further details regarding these arrangements are provided on our [corporate webpages](#).

General Corporate Hospitality

At this hospital, we provide general corporate hospitality as detailed on our [corporate webpages](#).

In addition, some Referring Clinicians provide advice or other support to us and our hospitals for which they are not paid. An example of this is our Medical Advisory Committees (MAC) at each hospital, which generally meet at least once per month. Refreshments are provided for these meetings and many of our hospitals hold an annual ‘thank you’ dinner for MAC members at a local restaurant.

We also arrange training and information events for Referring Clinicians and local GPs. Such events are an effective way to enhance GPs’ understanding and knowledge about both our hospitals and some of the specialist services we provide. No payments are made to GPs or Referring Clinicians for attending these events, although refreshments are provided and we sometimes use (and pay for) external venues when there is insufficient space for this type of event at the hospital. Sometimes we hold networking events for our GPs and Referring Clinicians which may be held off-site (such as at a football or rugby game). Some hospital or corporate managers may also invite Referring Clinicians to discuss options for developing the hospital or Circle business and these may be held over dinner.

Financial Interests

No Referring Clinicians hold a financial interest in Circle Reading.

Services Arrangements

Dr Shabham Iyer, Infection Control Lead, advises the Infection Prevention and Control Committee (IPCC) at Circle Reading. Dr Shabham Iyer is paid £1,166.66 per month for this service.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding our arrangements with Referring Clinicians, please contact us by email at company.secretary@circlehealthgroup.co.uk.

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