

Southend Private Hospital

Introduction

Consultants are critical to each Circle Health Group hospital. 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 hospitals and consultants who have Practising Privileges or treat private patients or refer them for tests at private facilities (“Referring Clinicians”).

In accordance with the CMA Order, hospital operators are prohibited from offering any incentive scheme or arrangement, whether legally enforceable or not, or incentive, which is intended to induce or may be reasonably regarded as inducing Referring Clinicians to refer 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 arrangements we have with Referring Clinicians at this hospital.

Higher Value Services

We charge our Referring Clinicians £20 per hour for using consulting rooms at our hospital, except in relation to NHS patients. Medical secretarial services are provided free of charge in relation to NHS patients.

We charge our Referring Clinicians £130 per month for hospital space used by their own private medical secretaries. This fee includes phone charges. Postage fees are charged separately.

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 webpage [here](#).

General Corporate Hospitality

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

In addition to the arrangements detailed on our corporate webpage, the hospital provides dinner quarterly at meetings of its Medical Advisory Committee. The dinner approximately costs £35 per person.

The hospital has a sponsorship agreement with Southend Football Club which includes access to four tickets to games during the season and 15 car park spaces at the club's stadium on all non-matchdays which the hospital makes available to staff and Referring Clinicians on an equal basis.

Financial Interests

Professor Rajesh Aggarwal and Mr Niral Karia, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons, hold a 47.5% and 5% interest respectively in AK Medical Centre Limited, which in turn indirectly holds a 10% interest in BMI Southend Private Hospital Limited, a joint venture with a Circle Health Group company (General Healthcare Holdings (3) Limited) and which owns and operates the hospital. There is also a lease for the hospital site with AK Medical Centre Limited.

Lasersight (Essex) Limited, of which Professor Rajesh Aggarwal, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, is a 25% owner, and Mr James Myerscough, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon is a 25% owner (with the remaining 50% owned by members of their families), owns a IROC Crosslink Laser, a Zeiss Mel90 Eximer Laser, and Zeiss Visumax800 machine. The hospital does not pay the company for use of this equipment.

Dr Sara Sotoudeh, Clinical Neurophysiology Consultant, owns some nerve conduction equipment. The hospital does not pay the consultant for use of this equipment when treating private patients.

Services Arrangements

Professor Rajesh Aggarwal, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, is a director of BMI Southend Private Hospital Limited (he receives no payment for this role).

Clinical Chair

Mr Aman Chandra, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, is the Clinical Chair of the hospital. Mr Aman Chandra's role includes chairing hospital Clinical Governance Committee meetings and attending the hospital's Senior Management Team meetings. Mr Aman Chandra is paid £13,000 per year for these services. In addition, the Clinical Chair will also attend national Clinical Chair meetings, generally in London, for which we reimburse their reasonable travel and attendance expenses.

Questions

Should you have any further questions in this area, please contact us by email at corporate.compliance@circlehealthgroup.co.uk.

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