

The Chiltern Hospital

Introduction

Consultants are critical to each Circle Health Group hospital. 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 arrangements we have with Referring Clinicians at this hospital.

Higher Value Services

We charge our Referring Clinicians £30 per hour for using consulting rooms at this hospital and £25.50 (plus VAT) per hour for using our medical secretarial services, except in relation to NHS patients.

We charge our Referring Clinicians £36.00 per square foot per annum for using space at the hospital for their own medical secretaries.

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 ([Consultants](#) and [GPs](#)).

General Corporate Hospitality

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

In addition to the arrangements detailed on our corporate webpages, we invite members of our hospital Medical Advisory Committee to an annual dinner. The hospital’s Executive Director (including their personal assistant) and the senior management team are invited to attend the dinner. The dinner approximately costs £85 per head.

Our hospital also held a specialty dinner in 2023 with Referring Clinicians in the orthopaedic specialism as an information gathering and sharing event. The cost was approximately £85 per head.

Both the MAC dinner and the speciality dinners are shared with Shelburne hospital.

Financial Interests

Dr Anand Virgincar, Neurophysiology, owns and uses a Dantec keypoint focus EMG/NCS/EP system. The hospital does not pay for use of this equipment.

Mr Rame Suntharaswaran, General Surgeon, owns and uses a Sonosite ultrasound machine. The hospital does not pay for use of this equipment.

Mr Patrick Lintott, Vascular Surgeon, owns and uses a Sonosite Edge ultrasound machine. The hospital does not pay for use of this equipment.

Miss Emma Wilton, Vascular Surgeon, owns and uses a Fujifilm Sonosite portable ultrasound machine. The hospital does not pay for use of this equipment.

Mr Andrew Northeast, General Surgeon, owns and uses a Duplex ultrasound machine. The hospital does not pay for use of this equipment.

Services Arrangements

There are no service arrangements between Referring Clinicians and our hospital.

Clinical Chair

Mr Bernard McElroy is the Clinical Chair of the hospital. Mr McElroy's role includes chairing hospital Clinical Governance Committee meetings and attending the hospital's Senior Management Team meetings. Mr McElroy 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.

This role and fee is shared with Shelburne hospital.

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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