

Relationship with General Practitioners (GPs)

If you are a private patient seeking treatment from a GP at one of our facilities, your relationship with your GP is separate from your relationship with Circle Health Group (Circle). GPs are independent practitioners personally responsible for the care they provide at Circle hospitals and they will invoice you (or your private medical insurer) directly for the treatment you receive.

While not employees, Circle monitors GPs treating patients in our facilities through our “Practising Privileges” framework, which ensures that you receive the highest standard of medical care. We undertake a thorough vetting process before we grant Practising Privileges to verify each GP’s qualifications and fitness to practice. In addition to mandated annual appraisals conducted by the GP’s designated body (usually NHS England), GPs are also subject to regular reviews by the Circle hospital where they treat patients. All GPs are required to maintain adequate levels of medical malpractice indemnity cover and we conduct regular audits to ensure that such cover is in place at all times.

Circle operates a “Ward to Board” governance and assurance framework to ensure the prompt, appropriate management of clinical risks and concerns. This framework is designed to foster a caring, responsive, transparent, and accountable approach to the provision of safe care for all of our patients, including the care you receive from your GP. If you have any concerns regarding the treatment you receive in a Circle hospital, rest assured that they will be resolved as quickly and as fairly as possible.