

Relationship with Consultants

If you are a private patient, your relationship with the Consultants providing your treatment (including Anaesthetists) is separate from your relationship with Circle Health Group (Circle). While Consultants are responsible for clinical decision-making and the quality of the care they provide, Circle is responsible for effective monitoring of Consultant's treating patients in our facilities. Our relationship with Consultant's is governed by our "Practising Privileges" framework, which sets out our mutual obligations to ensure you receive the highest standard of care. All Consultants with Practising Privileges at a Circle facility are independent practitioners and have personal responsibility for the care they deliver. While Consultants are not Circle employees, they are required to operate according to Circle policies and procedures when practising at Circle hospitals. As such, we undertake a thorough vetting process before we grant Practising Privileges to verify each Consultant's qualifications and fitness to practice. In addition to mandated annual appraisals conducted by the Consultant's designated body (usually the NHS Trust where the Consultant is employed), Consultants are also subject to regular reviews by the Executive Director of the Circle hospital where they hold Practising Privileges. All Consultants are required to maintain adequate levels of medical malpractice indemnity cover, in keeping with our policies, Practising Privileges and GMC guidance, and we conduct regular checks to ensure that such cover is in place.

Circle operates a "Ward to Board" clinical quality assurance framework to ensure the prompt, appropriate management of clinical risks and concerns. This framework is designed to encourage a caring, responsive, transparent, and accountable approach to the provision of safe care for our patients, including the care you receive from your Consultant. Many of the Consultants with Practising Privileges at our facilities are also engaged in leadership roles overseeing clinical audits, reviews, and governance assurance processes in our hospitals. At each Circle facility, a senior medical doctor serves in a remunerated role as the Clinical Chair supporting local oversight of Consultants' compliance with all clinical policies, including their Practising Privileges.

You can find out more about the [Consultants](#) providing your care on our website.

Paying for your treatment

If you are a private patient, you (or your insurer) will be invoiced separately by the Consultants involved in your treatment, and also by the Circle hospital where you were treated. However, in some instances, we may be able to collect fees on behalf of your Consultant in order to make the payment process easier for you.

To assist patients in making informed choices about the Consultant who will treat them and the hospital in which they will receive their treatment, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) requires Consultants to provide their private patients with certain fee and insurer information in advance of any outpatient consultation and prior to any further tests or treatment taking place. You should receive a letter from your Consultant containing such fee and insurer information prior to your initial outpatient consultation and then, if further treatment is required, within two working days following the final (pre-treatment) outpatient appointment or prior to surgery (whichever is sooner). Please contact your Consultant if you do not receive such information prior to your consultation or treatment.