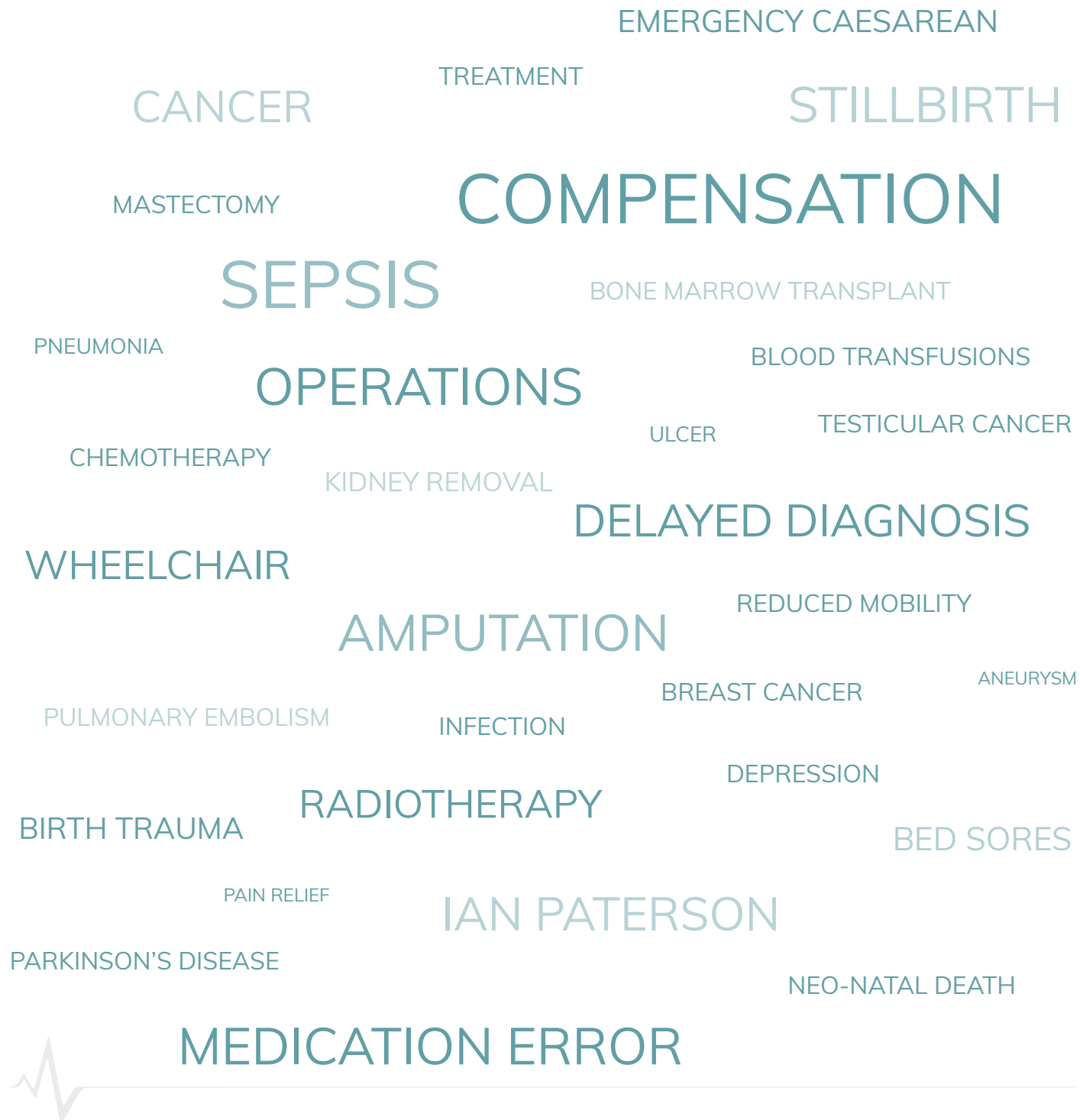




Specialist Clinical Negligence and Catastrophic Injury Lawyers

# Medical Accident Group

## Lives we've changed



## Medical Negligence

We all put our trust in medical professionals when we need help with our health. Unfortunately however, sometimes things can go wrong.

Medical Accident Group brings together the legal professionals you need when a medical error, lack of care or negligence breaks that trust.

## Catastrophic Injury

Sometimes life does not go as we had planned, and serious injury can occur. We are dedicated to working for those who have suffered a serious personal injury, using our expertise and experience to give our clients the best possible service and to ensure you receive the compensation you need to move on with your life.

We can offer you the support that you need to cope with the possible long-term effects on your life, health and family.

## No win no fee

We offer 'no win no fee' agreements because we understand that whilst legal advice can be costly, no one should be prevented from seeking the justice that they deserve.

The best  
advice  
when you  
need it  
most

## Car crash victim facing a life of pain receives £525,000 settlement

Broken bones, scarring and psychiatric trauma were the legacy of a short journey to the cinema for Ellie, aged 20, who came to Peter Savage at Medical Accident Group for help after the uninsured driver she was with crashed head-on into an oncoming car when overtaking.

Ellie, who then spent more than 11 weeks in hospital in three different hospitals, had to have multiple operations on her left leg, ankle and wrist as well as on her right leg and foot. She could not walk independently for another five months and not only suffers constant pain, but is also starting to suffer from osteoarthritis.

**Have you been injured in a road accident? Our experts can help you to seek compensation**

Peter said: “I was very glad to be able to help her to come to a settlement for £525,000, which will help to support her for the rest of her life. It sounds like an enormous sum of money but she was only 20 when this happened and she faces a life with pain and disability because of this accident.

“She was working full-time and tried hard to do that again, though she had to change professions to do so. But her injuries made that impossible, even though her employer was sympathetic and tried to accommodate her needs.

“Since the accident, she has got married and she wants to start a family, but she and her husband, who provides a lot of the care that she now needs, know that it will be a challenge. I wanted to make sure that she had what she needed to live a good and happy life, just as she would have done before this happened to her.”

**PTSD, stress and depression added to injuries**

Ellie not only suffered physically but also psychologically – she had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for three years after the accident, frequent flashbacks to the accident and continues to suffer from depression.

On a bad day, she cannot walk or stand for more than a few minutes at a time and is very easily tired.

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## Starting a new life after sepsis

A chef who lost her right index finger because three NHS hospitals failed to treat sepsis fast enough has received £225,000 in compensation after Elizabeth Wickson of Medical Accident Group took on her case.

Elizabeth said that the hospitals' multiple failures had “a devastating effect on the patient's life” - simple antibiotics, given quickly, could have prevented it.

She said: “The compensation goes some way towards making her life easier in the future, although the loss of her finger, especially in her job, will be difficult.”

**Have you suffered from wrong or delayed treatment? We can help**

The chef went into A and E in Milton Keynes in the early hours of one morning with a painful and swollen finger and was incorrectly diagnosed with compartment syndrome, which causes lack of blood flow and oxygen to muscles and nerves, damaging them.

Eventually she was transferred to a Bedfordshire hospital, where blood tests were not correctly interpreted and the signs of infection were missed. She was finally given antibiotics that evening, after doctors diagnosed imminent gangrene in her finger.

**Infection led to amputation**

24 hours after she first came into hospital, she was transferred to another hospital, where a septic infection was correctly diagnosed. Her finger and hand were operated on in an attempt to stem the infection, but too much damage had already been caused to her finger, and it was amputated the next day.

It was admitted that staff should have recognised sepsis and given antibiotics, with an immediate transfer to a hospital with a hand surgery unit.

Elizabeth added: “This illustrates how vital it is for medical staff to be aware of sepsis and to act quickly. The simple provision of antibiotics could have avoided the amputation altogether.”

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## Seeking justice after life devastated by treatment delays

Delayed diagnosis and treatment of Adam's infected gallbladder meant that his ability to walk was limited, he needed help in his home and couldn't carry on with his normal life after surgery. He came to Charis Haynes at Medical Accident Group for help with his claim.

### Have you suffered because of delayed diagnosis or treatment? We can help

Adam went into hospital twice because of his gallbladder problems – his first operation, 10 days after he was admitted for the second time, showed that the problem was worse than first suspected.

### Multiple health problems changed his life

His recovery was not straightforward – he suffered from sepsis in his bile duct, and needed another operation. He then suffered from hospital-acquired pneumonia and a pulmonary embolism – he was in hospital for another six weeks before he could be transferred to a community hospital for rehabilitation.

When Adam came home, his problems were not over – he only had limited walking ability and couldn't continue his normal life as before.

### Seeking justice for medical negligence

He came to Medical Accident Group to pursue a claim for clinical negligence – although he sadly died from unrelated health problems while that claim was being looked into, Charis and the team are able to continue that investigation on behalf of his direct family and his estate.

Charis said: "This is a very sad case, but we can ensure access to justice, even after someone's death."

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## Experience and determination secure substantial damages for client

After Kate had to have a kidney removed because of years of medical negligence, the experience and determination of Inez Brown at Medical Accident Group not only settled the case for £540,000, but also uncovered errors in treatment throughout.

Kate, who has continuing vertigo, nausea and dizziness after being given too high a dose of an antibiotic for too long after her operation, needs help at home and can't return to her full-time job as a teaching assistant.

### Has medical negligence damaged your life? We can help you to find answers

Inez said: "If she had been treated properly when she first complained of persistent and recurring pain, her kidney problem would have been spotted earlier and she might never have had to have the operation. That in turn would have meant there was no need for the antibiotic which has caused such problems for her.

"The negligence here, both by individual doctors and by the NHS Trust involved, which didn't even insist that the staff followed its own prescribing protocols, has affected her life considerably. I felt very strongly that she should be, and would be, fully compensated for the damage to her health."

Kate was treated by GPs for three years for what were apparently urinary tract infections (UTIs), with no investigation into underlying causes. Eventually she insisted on a specialist opinion and within three months she had to have a kidney removed because of a 1.5cm kidney stone and the severe infection around it.

After the operation, she was treated with an antibiotic, but at too high a dose for too long, even when it was seen to be affecting her badly.

Kate was very happy with Inez' support and advice. She said: "When it came to the crunch, our barrister seemed to lose faith at the last hurdle. Inez achieved a settlement that was double the best outcome indicated by our barrister!"

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## £50,000 compensation for worker who lost thumb tip

Brian Bartlett, whose thumb tip was cut off in an accident at work, came to Sally Green and personal injury specialist Peter Savage at Medical Accident Group for help, after health and safety failings at the timber company where he worked led to his injury.

### Have you had an accident at work? We can help you

Sally and Peter were able to negotiate £50,000 of compensation for Brian, aged 50, who couldn't work for three months after the accident and is now limited in his choice of work. He suffers pain, especially in cold weather, and is limited in what he can do around the house and garden.

### Inadequate health and safety procedures

He had only been working at the timber company for six days when the accident happened – he was using a bench circular saw to trim wood, but without full instructions or protective equipment.

He had to push the timber through the saw with his right hand, using his left hand as a guide. When the timber got close to the saw, he would use a push stick to finish the cutting process. The accident happened when the timber flicked off the saw blade; he immediately felt pain in his left thumb and saw that he was bleeding.

### Emergency surgery needed

In spite of immediate first aid, he has now lost the top 15mm of his left thumb.

Sally said: "If the company had given him proper training or protective equipment, this terrible accident need never have happened. Working with tools such as a circular saw is inherently risky and dangerous.

"Brian has had flashbacks, gets pain in his thumb regularly and is much more limited in what he can do. He has two young children to support and the compensation we were able to negotiate for him will help him to plan for their future as well as his own."

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## Breast cancer patient lied to by surgeon

A patient who was left distraught after surgeon Ian Paterson lied to her about the type of surgery he carried out has said that "the fact that Mr Paterson lied to me without flinching is something I will never recover from."

Support from Ally Taft of Medical Accident Group brought her compensation after her request for a total mastectomy was ignored, leaving her at risk of her cancer recurring. Mrs Booth was one of many victims of jailed breast surgeon Ian Paterson, who took no notice of her clear choice before he operated, performing what is now termed a 'cleavage-sparing' mastectomy.

### Requests for full mastectomy ignored

Mrs Booth faced surgery after being diagnosed with breast cancer, and made it clear that she wanted a mastectomy because she wanted to keep the risk of the cancer returning as low as possible. She had two very young children and had recently lost her father to cancer. She even opted for a double mastectomy to further reduce her risk.

With Ally's support, she received a share of the £37m compensation ordered by the High Court for about 750 patients to settle their cases against the surgeon and the hospitals in which he worked.

Mrs Booth said: "He was someone I put my complete trust in. His actions have left me distraught."

### Have you had your wishes ignored? We can help you

Ally said: "Ian Paterson wreaked havoc with many people's lives and ignored Mrs Booth's specific request, so that she had to have further surgery.

"I have supported several of his patients, and his actions and the lies he told people, meant that many were at increased risk and were really afraid that their cancer would recur. That fear has scarred their lives, and I am glad I've been able to help them take back some control and be compensated for their suffering."

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## Patient left paralysed after poor medical care for spinal tumour

Delayed diagnosis, reporting and treatment left Simon on crutches and doubly incontinent – a tumour on his spine which was eventually removed was found to be linked to testicular cancer which had spread, needing chemotherapy, blood transfusion and bone marrow transplants.

Simon came to Amrit Dhaliwal of Medical Accident Group for help - he had been to hospital four times complaining of severe and increasing back pain with no evidence of any injury. On his fifth visit, when he could not move or use his right leg and rapidly lost power in his left leg, he was scanned.

### Has your life been blighted by delayed diagnosis or treatment? We can help

The scan showed a large tumour on his spine which was pressing on his spinal cord – he underwent emergency surgery and was left with very limited movement from the waist down and was doubly incontinent. He suffered from pressure sores while in hospital and was also injured, while undergoing chemotherapy, by a drip stand falling on his leg.

To treat his testicular cancer, Simon had three batches of chemotherapy, the last of which almost killed him – he was in intensive care for six weeks.

### Nerve damage blighting his life could have been avoided

Now out of hospital, he cannot walk without crutches and uses a wheelchair. Expert opinion has established that if he had been diagnosed or treated properly at one of his earlier hospital visits, with scans and the involvement of neurologists, he would have been spared the extensive nerve damage which has caused his current difficulties.

Amrit said: “It’s clear that there was negligence here – if he had been referred earlier, he would not be in such difficulty now. The A and E and radiology failures had a devastating impact on him, both in term of his mobility and possible life expectancy. I was glad to be able to help him to find answers and to make sure that lessons are learned.”

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## Teenager’s life blighted by delayed cancer diagnosis and treatment

Cassie has been left with nerve damage on her left side after seeking help for a lump on her forehead – her dermatologist didn’t tell her it needed treatment and didn’t even invite her back for a follow-up appointment. Charlotte Measures took up her case and secured £250,000 compensation for her.

### Have you suffered because of delays in diagnosis or treatment? We can help

Cassie had been to her GP, concerned about a lump on her forehead, but was told that it was cosmetic and so would not be dealt with by the NHS. She went to see a private dermatologist, who removed the lump as far as possible and sent it off for analysis, telling her that if she heard nothing further, it meant there was nothing to worry about.

Cassie, then in her late teens, heard nothing, although the lump was found to be suspicious and full removal of the whole area was recommended. When another lump appeared in the same place, she saw the dermatologist again. Even then, he didn’t give her the earlier results, and failed to follow up quickly; he attempted to remove the new lump himself, rather than referring her to a plastic surgeon.

### Surgery causes further problems

Again, complete removal was advised. A year after the first lump appeared, Cassie finally had the new lump removed and also had checks for melanoma, which was found in her lymph nodes. The resulting surgery left her with weakness in her left arm and shoulder, facial tremors and limited movement on her left side.

Charlotte said: “Cassie was only a teenager at the time – she was in the middle of taking her A Levels, and this was shattering. If she had had the first lump removed properly when the results were known, it’s very likely that she wouldn’t have needed any further treatment. That might also have been the case, when she came back with the second lump, if action had been taken immediately then.

“The delays, which led to the surgery, have affected her life considerably – it is not at all clear that she will recover from her difficulties.”

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## Three months of pain from fractured ankle missed by doctors

An accident at work left Jack with a fractured ankle which went undiagnosed for more than three months – he later had to have two operations to correct problems that late diagnosis caused.

He came to Fahmidah Ali of Medical Accident Group and her support and advice helped to achieve a settlement of £70,500.

Jack slipped and fell in mid-January and went to A and E complaining of bruising, swelling and pain in his right foot. He had no X-ray and he was diagnosed as having a soft tissue injury, which would be improved by resting and elevating his foot, and taking ibuprofen. He was advised to see a GP if it didn't improve.

"I was limping and in pain," he said; "I used walls, chairs and bannisters to support me. I missed not being able to work and seeing my friends."

### Have you suffered from late or wrong diagnosis? We can help

He did seek help at his local surgery – they followed the hospital's diagnosis too, and his condition didn't improve – his ankle was swollen and deformed. Finally, he was correctly diagnosed when his fracture was confirmed at another hospital.

A specialist told him that the fracture was healing and that surgery might not improve matters. But he opted for surgery and his ankle was pinned. Another operation was needed later, after he had suffered an infection, eventually cleared by several courses of antibiotics – Jack is now left with early arthritis in his ankle and may well need further physiotherapy.

Fahmidah said: "I'm delighted that I was able to help Jack after such a straightforward diagnosis was missed – he suffered not only the pain before the correct diagnosis and the after-effects of two operations, but also loss of earnings and the worry of how the injury will affect the rest of his life."

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## Sepsis, pneumonia and sores from poor medical treatment

Tim, who had Parkinson's disease, spent months suffering from bedsores and infections acquired in hospital, with his health deteriorating until he contracted sepsis because of an ulcer which had not been treated properly. He was eventually transferred to a nursing home where his ulcer improved due to excellent care.

His wife, Caroline, came to Sophie Keatley at Medical Accident Group to help her to find out more about her husband's care in the hospital. Sophie's investigation revealed that warning signs about Tim's vulnerability to sores were not heeded, and Caroline received a settlement of £20,000.

### Have you or a loved one suffered from poor medical care? We can help you

Tim went into hospital with a broken hip, which was operated on and he was able to move around and had no broken skin, but it was noted that he was at very high risk of pressure sores (bed sores). He suffered from a urinary tract infection after surgery and was given antibiotics – he was later treated for pneumonia and was very dehydrated.

He suffered from pressure sores 10 days after being admitted, and his health deteriorated – he was confused and drowsy, and was put back onto antibiotics again to treat an infection; his sores continued and got worse, and he was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis.

### Move to nursing home from hospital improves treatment

His health continued to decline and eventually, four months after he was admitted, he was transferred to a nursing home, where his ulcer, and his general health, improved. He was by then in the end stages of Parkinson's disease, and died six months later.

Sophie said: "The hospital knew that he had a high risk of developing sores. His pain and suffering could have been prevented in the hospital – he was very vulnerable and deserved better care."

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“I will be eternally grateful to the person that recommended Sally and Peter to me because nobody could have handled the claim better.”  
- Mrs JL

“The outcome was much better than I ever imagined it could be, and the settlement will mean financial security for myself and my family. I was always kept fully informed by Inez and given the best possible advice.”  
- Mr D

“The service I received from Sophie was first class.” - Mr U

“Charlotte has consistently kept us abreast of each stage of the process, explaining often complex details in as ‘down to earth’ manner as possible, and respectfully. Her involvement has proved invaluable.” - Sister of Miss AL

“Elizabeth is excellent at explaining. I was listened to and understood, and I felt I was her priority at all times.”  
- Mrs P

“I valued Ally’s personable nature. I would highly recommend Ally and MAG to other potential clients” - Mr M

“The service I have received from Fahmidah has been exemplary. She was very attentive, pleasant to deal with and proactive.” - Mr C

“From our very first meeting, Peter Savage showed compassion and understanding. Legal jargon and implications were always explained to me so that I fully understood what was going on.” - Mrs P

Our team



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