

BMI Healthcare and Consultants

Introduction

Consultants are critical to each BMI Healthcare hospital. However in common with most private healthcare operators, BMI Healthcare does not employ these consultants. Instead, consultants working in our hospitals are essentially self-employed practitioners who see and treat patients at our hospitals under the terms of our 'credentialing' or 'practising privileges' policy.

It is important that we are transparent about our relationship with our consultants and we have therefore set out below some of the ways in which we work together. Further details are also available via our individual hospital web pages.

Higher Value Services

We charge consultants (and other healthcare professionals such as dieticians and podiatrists) for using consulting rooms at our hospitals and for medical secretarial services we provide to them, except in relation to NHS patients. We also charge for rooms at the hospitals used by consultants' own medical secretaries. The charges applicable at each of our hospitals are available via our individual hospital web pages.

Lower Value Services

We provide a number of support services to our consultants, for which we do not make a charge. These include:

- Insurance to cover the risk of a claim from or in relation to an NHS patient (except in relation to NHS fertility patients) (it is a requirement of working in our hospitals that consultants have appropriate insurance or other arrangements in place at their own cost to cover the risk of a claim from a patient with private medical insurance or who has paid for their treatment themselves)
- Support with patient admission and billing
- Free/subsidised tea, coffee, on-site meals and car parking (where this is available and provided to other staff working at the particular hospital)
- General marketing such as consultant directories and general promotion events

General corporate hospitality

Some consultants provide advice or other support to us and our hospitals for which they are not paid. An example of this is our Hospital Medical Advisory Committees (MAC), which meet at least once every other month. Refreshments are provided for these meetings and many of our hospitals hold an annual 'thank you' dinner for Committee members at a local restaurant.

BMI Healthcare also has a National Medical Advisory Committee (NMAC), of which certain Chairs of individual Hospital MACs are members. The NMAC currently meets once a year and because of consultants' availability and location, these are generally held at a hotel with good transport connections and over a weekend. We have invited members' partners to attend over past years, although would note membership and the terms of reference of the NMAC are currently under review.

Another example is the training and information events we arrange for consultants and local GPs. These prove an excellent way to enhance GPs' understanding and knowledge about both our hospitals and some of the specialist services we provide there. No payments are made to GPs or consultants for attending, although refreshments are provided and we sometimes use (and pay for) external venues when there is insufficient space for this type of event at the hospital.

A description of, and the cost of providing, any specific corporate hospitality events can be found via our individual hospital web pages.

Financial Interests

Some of our consultants have financial interests in equipment used or services and facilities operated within or at some of our hospitals. Details of these arrangements are available via individual hospital web pages.

Services Arrangements

Some of our consultants may hold part-time positions at our hospitals, in addition to exercising practising privileges there. Details of these arrangements can be found on our individual hospital web pages.

Questions

Should you have any further questions in this area, please contact us by email at company.secretary@bmihealthcare.co.uk.

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