



Understanding the Clinical Indemnity Scheme and Medical Protection Benefits

The Clinical Indemnity Scheme (CIS) provides doctors with cover for clinical negligence claims that occur in public hospitals and HSE facilities. However, complaints to the Medical Council, Garda inquiries, and disciplinary hearings are not covered and could leave doctors facing such situations on their own.

This is where Medical Protection comes in and fills the gaps, offering members complete protection and support whenever they need it.

The need for Medical Protection membership

The majority of cases handled by Medical Protection involve assisting members with medicolegal and ethical enquiries, such as a complaint to the IMC or a disciplinary procedure, which can have serious consequences for a doctor's reputation and career.

- In 2020 there were 24,720 doctors on the Medical Register – up from 23,555 in 2019, an increase of over 1,160 doctors
- 279 complaints were received, compared to 431 in 2019
- 420 doctors were restored to the Medical Register to help during the COVID-19 pandemic through the *Be On Call for Ireland* campaign.

The financial cost of preparation and representation for an average three-day Fitness to Practise inquiry would leave little change from €50,000.

The CIS is there to ensure patients who experience harm as a result of substandard care are compensated. Medical Protection is there to ensure its members are fully supported through claims, cases, complaints, or hearings.

What does Medical Protection membership provide?

- Telephone advisory service available 24/7 – Members can phone us for confidential, specialist medicolegal advice to help resolve everyday dilemmas, as well as more complex scenarios arising from professional practice.
- Specialist legal advice and representation – For a range of circumstances which are not supported by the CIS, such as disciplinary hearings and IMC Fitness to Practise proceedings.
- Handling complaints – If you become the subject of a complaint, we can help you formulate a response and support you through to its resolution.
- Writing reports – We can help with preparing a report for the coroner and offer advice and representation at an inquest.
- Media and press relations – Medical Protection can issue statements and act as a spokesperson should a case or complaint against you receive unwanted media attention.

- Criminal proceedings – We can help members who are the subject of a Garda investigation that arose directly from their provision of clinical care to patients.
- Indemnity – Medical Protection can provide you with full protection against a claim. When we take on a member's case, we take care of all the legal costs and compensation payments.
- Protection for Good Samaritan acts worldwide.

Information and risk management

We are committed to helping you mitigate your risk and provide the best care for your patients. Using our wealth of knowledge and experience we have developed a range of risk management resources to help reduce your exposure to complaints and claims.

For publications, conferences, lectures, workshops, E-learning and clinical risk self-assessments (CRSAs) visit:

medicalprotection.org/ireland/education-and-publications

The importance of complete protection

The table below shows the differences between the CIS and Medical Protection's indemnity, highlighting the importance of having both to help protect your career. For more information on the benefits of membership, you can visit medicalprotection.org/ireland or contact us on **1800 932 916**.

	Medical Protection member benefit	Clinical indemnity scheme
Indemnity	For unindemnified work, including Good Samaritan acts and voluntary work	For public hospital work and Good Samaritan acts only
24/7 confidential, emergency medicolegal advice line	Yes	No
IMC proceedings arising from professional matters	Yes	No
Support and representation for hospital disciplinary hearings arising from clinical practice	Yes	No
Help to prepare responses to complaints from patients	Yes	No
Criminal matters arising from clinical practice, eg manslaughter	Yes	No
Support with report writing and representation in a Coroner's Court	Yes	Yes
Support with media relations, by preparing statements and acting as a spokesperson	Yes	No

Contacts

Medicolegal advice - 1800 936 077

Membership services - 1800 932 916 (toll free within Ireland) / member.help@medicalprotection.org

Address - Medical Protection, Victoria House, 2 Victoria Place, Leeds LS11 5AE, United Kingdom / Block 3, Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2, Ireland

For more information please visit medicalprotection.org/ireland