



The Times

Re: 12 November 2016 - NHS will need £50 billion to cover future negligence claims

The NHSLA routinely denies causing harm, and unnecessarily defends claims before finally settling at the door of the court, having racked up avoidable costs along the way.

The number of new clinical negligence claims against the NHS has fallen by eight per cent in the last three years. This could, optimistically, suggest that fewer patients are being harmed or killed. But perhaps injured patients and bereaved families are dissuaded from claiming the redress to which they need and have a right. Pursuing the NHS for compensation is an uphill and costly battle, and can carry with it a wholly misplaced and unfair stigma of taking away from the health service's funds.

Far from being 'forced' to pay compensation, the NHSLA only pays damages when negligent harm has been proven. As former chief executive of the NHSLA, Steve Walker, said to the British Medical Journal in 2012: "if you stopped getting things wrong so consistently then you wouldn't have to pay in the first place".

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