

Indemnity for practitioners engaged in treating professional sportsmen

Medical Protection Society (MPS) indemnity, assuming the doctor has declared the correct earnings information when renewing membership, would cover treatment of any sports personnel within the context of a private arrangement with the sports person. This would not include indemnity for a doctor who has a contractual arrangement with a sports club. Doctors so employed should be indemnified by the sports club.

Hence it is important for a doctor to avoid working in a way that might create expectations that a duty of care is owed to a club. To avoid this, MPS advises that doctors should:

- not enter into a written or oral contract with an employer to treat employees for reward;
- only accept referrals from other healthcare professionals, not from clubs directly;
- address all professional fee notes to the patient, not the employer. [If fees are to be settled by the employer or their medical insurers, the patient should be asked to forward them on. Alternatively, written confirmation may be obtained from the patient that all fee notes should be sent to the employer or their medical insurers.]
- review any existing relationship with an employer of a patient very carefully

The above is Medical Protection Society's position. Please consult the Medical Defence Organisation that you belong to before undertaking treatment of any professional sportsmen.

All doctors providing medical care at sports events in the UK in any capacity must be medically qualified and have a licence to practise from the GMC.