

## INTRODUCTION

Medical Opinions Associates has offered medical expert litigation support services to attorneys, insurance companies, and individuals since 1978. For medical malpractice and personal injury matters, we arrange for medical experts to review medical records and provide follow-on consultative services. We have arranged for the services of medical experts in nearly every conceivable specialty. We work to ensure the continuity of medical expert services from record review through trial testimony.

We pledge our best effort to locate and engage a suitable medical expert to review medical records, prepare opinion letters, and provide on-going consultation during discovery, including trial testimony, if needed.

We screen our medical experts to ensure that they are Board-certified and in active clinical practice. Board-certification is a recognized indicator of professional proficiency. There is no substitute for hands-on clinical experience in affording the expert the authority and command to support the medical opinion. We also look for strong academic affiliations and prolific publishing to supplement the clinical expertise.

## MEDICAL OPINION SERVICES

Our job is to match you with a suitable medical expert. We will find the appropriate medical expert in the specialty you determine. If you are unsure, we will help you determine the most appropriate medical specialty.

The medical expert considers the medical information that you provide concerning the claim. These may include hospital records, office notes, operative notes, x-rays, laboratory reports, discharge reports, affidavits, and other relevant documentation.

The medical expert evaluates the available information and concludes as to whether or not negligence has occurred. The medical experts will provide a written opinion using their professional expertise, education, and training. The opinion will state whether the health care provider deviated from customary and accepted standards of care and the extent to which it caused injury.

## SENDING RECORDS

You must provide the complete medical record, including all relevant notes, lab test reports, films, film reports, and summaries. Without advance agreement, you may not submit records incrementally or submit additional records after the expert has completed

his review. The medical expert will determine the presence or absence of medical negligence based only on the records provided at the time of engagement.

You are expected to send copies of medical records and films. We do not accept original medical records. We cannot be held responsible for lost, misplaced, mishandled, or otherwise compromised medical records or films.

We will take due care to ensure that all medical records are kept confidential and are promptly forwarded to the reviewing expert. At times, more than one medical expert may review part of or the entire medical file, depending on the circumstances.

#### FEES AND PAYMENT TERMS

Fees for the medical opinion will be quoted in advance and are due when medical records are submitted for review. Fees are variable and depend on the medical specialty involved, the complexity of the case, the volume of records to be reviewed, and the time permitted for completion. Fees do not include office visits. All relevant patient assessment information should be obtained beforehand and included with the medical file when submitted for review. If we are unable to locate and engage a suitable expert, any fees advanced will be returned.

If you need the expert for consultation after the opinion is rendered or for trial testimony, we require a retainer account to fund the effort. Fees for follow-on consultation and trial testimony are done on the basis of hourly rates. The retainer account is normally funded for one day (8 hours) of medical expert consultation, unless the effort required is known to be in excess of one day. The retainer account also covers medical expert consultation, deposition, and trial testimony. Hourly rates for deposition and trial may be higher than those charged for post-opinion letter medical consultation.

Our reimbursement is strictly fee-for-service. We do not have contingency fees of any kind.

**SPECIAL TERMS**

Information and other web site content are provided for information purposes only and are not intended as a substitute or supplement for advice from a medical or legal professional.

You may not bring legal action against the Company, its principals, or its medical consultants for any reason outside of Middlesex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

If you choose to use the services of Medical Opinions Associates, Inc., you are bound by the terms and conditions stated above.

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I hereby agree to the terms and conditions as stated above.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Opinions Associates \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit two signed copies of the above terms and conditions to Medical Opinions Associates when you send the medical records. We will return one signed copy for your records.