

# Medical Misdiagnosis Claims



## The complexities of medical misdiagnosis

Misdiagnosis is the basis of one of the most common types of medical negligence claims and exists in all areas of medicine. Examples of such medical negligence claims include delays in diagnosis of [cancer](#) or an [infectious disease](#) such as [sepsis](#) or [meningitis](#). In addition, there are missed [fractures](#), a failure to identify and treat a condition at the time of presentation such as [encephalitis](#), [cauda equine syndrome](#), a [heart attack](#) or [stroke](#).

A misdiagnosis occurs when a medical professional fails to identify the symptoms of a health condition or illness. Inevitably, the impact of this can be extremely serious because without treatment, the undiagnosed condition may progress to a more advanced stage, affecting treatment options and prognosis. A clinician can also make an incorrect diagnosis wrongly diagnosing an illness or condition resulting in unnecessary medical procedures.

Diagnostic errors can be made even when a health professional takes all reasonable skill or care. Medicine is not a precise reasonable care. Generally, at the time of presentation a clinician will obtain a detailed medical history, carry out tests and investigations and then come up with a number of possible diagnosis or options. This is commonly known as a "differential diagnosis".

Differential diagnosis is a systemic method used by doctors to reach a final diagnosis. Based upon the medical history, physical examination and test results the doctor will make a list of possible diagnoses in order of probability. They then go on to test the strength of each individual diagnosis by carrying out further tests, perhaps referring to other specialities and liaising with their professional colleagues seeking to narrow down the potential diagnosis.

## Medical misdiagnosis can lead to serious injury or long-term disability

Ideally, through this process a number of potential diagnoses will be ruled out and only one diagnosis will remain. Inevitably, mistakes can be made in circumstances where there is clear evidence of negligence. A patient may present with clear and obvious symptoms and a medical history which makes a particular diagnosis compelling and yet it is not considered as an option or even investigated. There may be a failure to take a detailed medical history, which should, had it been properly obtained, have led to the correct diagnosis. There could be a failure to carry out all appropriate tests. In other words mistakes are made some of which can evidence a lack of all appropriate skill or care and thereby negligence.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: [info@LA-law.com](mailto:info@LA-law.com) | [www.lesteraldridge.com](http://www.lesteraldridge.com)



The information contained in this publication is for guidance only. No responsibility can be accepted by Lester Aldridge LLP (LA) or by external contributors for action taken as a result of the information contained in this publication. It is not intended to be an exhaustive statement of the law or a substitute for seeking specific advice. Photocopying or other reproduction without LA's permission is a breach of copyright. LA is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. A list of members is available on request. Registered Office: Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8EX. Registered in England OC321318.

## Claiming misdiagnosis compensation

Victims of medical negligence are often left suffering continued pain; they may require further medical treatment and are left worrying about the future for both themselves and their families. They may have suffered a loss of earnings and have significant care needs. They may require specialist interventions, therapies and support.

Clinical negligence compensation claims are designed to provide compensation to the victim for the physical and financial effects of their injuries. Damages if awarded will compensate for the injury and financial losses both past and future thereby meeting the costs of additional treatment, ongoing care, therapies and disability support along with any other financial losses. The aim being to put the victim back in the position they would have been but for the defendant's negligence so far as possible.

## Support for patients affected by misdiagnosis negligence

At Lester Aldridge we are highly experienced in investigating misdiagnosis claims and in taking forward successful compensation claims. We have access to a panel of medical experts who are leaders in their field.

We know how devastating a medical mistake can be. No amount of compensation can put things right but it can result in essential provision for the cost of care, to support both you and your loved ones and meet your immediate and ongoing needs. Our experienced specialist lawyers utilise their expertise to maximize any compensation award.

If you have suffered injury, following a mistake made in diagnosis we can assist with your claim.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact our Personal Injury lawyers. Contact us by emailing: [online.enquiries@la-law.com](mailto:online.enquiries@la-law.com) or calling 0344 967 0791.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: [info@LA-law.com](mailto:info@LA-law.com) | [www.lesteraldridge.com](http://www.lesteraldridge.com)



The information contained in this publication is for guidance only. No responsibility can be accepted by Lester Aldridge LLP (LA) or by external contributors for action taken as a result of the information contained in this publication. It is not intended to be an exhaustive statement of the law or a substitute for seeking specific advice. Photocopying or other reproduction without LA's permission is a breach of copyright. LA is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. A list of members is available on request. Registered Office: Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8EX. Registered in England OC321318.