

Never Events



What are never events

Never events are serious, largely preventable safety incidents that should not occur if available preventative measures are implemented. They include:

- Wrong site surgery
- Wrong implant/prosthesis
- Retained foreign object post procedure
- Mis-selection of a strong potassium solution
- Administration of medication by the wrong route
- Overdose of insulin due to abbreviations or incorrect device
- Overdose of methotrexate for non-cancer treatment
- Mis-selection of high strength midazolam during conscious sedation
- Transfusion or transplantation of ABO-incompatible blood components or organs.
- Misplaced naso- or oro-gastric tubes
- Scalding of patients
- Unintentional connection of a patient requiring oxygen to an air
- Flowmeter

By way of further explanation and example wrong site surgery will include interventions that are considered to be surgical but are done outside an operating theatre and can be wide ranging for example, wrong site block (including blocks for pain relief), biopsy, interventional radiology procedure, cardiology procedure, drain insertion and line insertion.

In relation to retained objects this will include interventional radiology, cardiology, interventions related to vaginal birth and interventions performed outside the operating theatre. A foreign object includes any items subject to a formal counting/checking process at the start of the procedure and before its completion (such as for swabs, needles, instruments and guidewires).

Errors in medical treatment can lead to serious injury or long term disability

The NHS publish each year an up to date and comprehensive list of what are considered to be “never events” which amount to errors made in medical treatment or care that are considered to be wholly unacceptable and that should never happen.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: info@LA-law.com | www.lesteraldridge.com



Inevitably if you suffer injury as a result of a “never event” it is more likely than not that any compensation claim taken forward will not be defended by the NHS.

Claiming compensation following a never event

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 defendants negligence so far as possible.

Support for patients affected by negligence related to a never event

At Lester Aldridge we are highly experienced in investigating never event 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 medical treatment which is classified as a never event 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 or calling 0344 967 0791.

Tel: 0344 967 0791 | Email: info@LA-law.com | 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.