

7.1.3 Information regarding legal protection for Ethics Committee members

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

All hospitals in Alfred Health are provided with extensive insurance cover under policies provided by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) which is the government insurer funded by the Department of Health. The relevant policies are:

1. Professional Indemnity and Directors & Officers Liability Policy

This policy provides personal protection to Committee members in the event of a claim for up to \$20 million for any one claim, inclusive of legal costs during the period of insurance.

2. Public and Products Liability Policy

This policy provides protection to Committee members in the event of a claim for personal injury, property damage or directly related financial loss for up to \$750 million for any one claim and in the aggregate.

In relation to clinical trials, the hospital adheres to the guidelines developed under the Commonwealth Department of Health's Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) Scheme. Adherence to the CTN guidelines, which includes notification of the details of certain trials to the hospital's insurers, will ensure that members of the Ethics Committee are indemnified under the above policies.

In addition to the indemnities provided by the above policies, a pharmaceutical company sponsoring a trial must provide separate contractual indemnities to the hospital, the investigator and the members of the hospital's Ethics Committee.

Alfred Health's insurers and their legal advisers confirm that individual members of the Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee are well covered under the above arrangements.

The hospital confirms that the above insurances are current for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the VMIA's insurance year. I will let you know if there are any changes after 1 July 2011. This confirmation will be provided to the Ethics Committee on an annual basis.

Members of the Ethics Committee are expected to:

- be familiar with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. This can be found at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm>; and
- comply with the obligations set out in the Alfred Health document entitled "Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee – obligations of members", a copy of which has been provided to each member.

Please contact me if there are any aspects of this notice that require clarification.

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Chief Executive
Alfred Health