

Complacency among GPs in diagnosing cancer

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A new government report showed massive variation in referral rates of cancer cases across the country. Professor Steve Field, the Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners said GPs are failing to refer all patients with suspected cancer for further tests and need to 'do better'.

Rosaline Wong, a clinical negligence specialist Solicitor at Pictons Solicitors LLP says that "Professor Field's comment re-open the debate on GPs' skills in diagnosing cancer and the great variation in the number of cancer cases referred by GPs under the two-week wait rule. Cancer is the UK's biggest killer after heart disease and strokes. Britain has a far worse record than many European countries in diagnosing cancer early. That is partly because GPs sometimes fail to correctly identify signs of cancer.

I welcome the new plans for GPs to have direct access to a greater range of diagnostic tools, such as MRI scans and endoscopy and the implementation of computer aided diagnostic tools that calculates risk of cancer to facilitate early referral. We know that early diagnosis can prevent unnecessary deaths and the patient has a much better chance of surviving".

At Pictons Solicitors LLP, we have the experience and skills to assist you and investigate your potential claim. Please contact Pictons' clinical negligence team on 0845 263 7509 or email rosaline.wong@pictons.co.uk