



UK LEGAL GUIDE

Catastrophic injury claims

Second edition

Kennedys

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Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of Kennedys' catastrophic injury claims guide.

The guide reflects the very significant impact on catastrophic claims arising from the reduction in the discount rate from 2.5% to minus 0.75%, which became effective on 20 March 2017. We will continue to monitor the impact of the discount rate change on all aspects of catastrophic claims and will update the guide as and when the rate is reviewed following the consultation which the Lord Chancellor has announced.

Two new topics are included in this edition. One of these is pain disorders. These claims have not traditionally been treated as catastrophic claims. However, severe cases of complex regional pain syndrome and other chronic pain disorders often require expensive care regimes and consequentially substantial damages can be sought. We have also included a chapter on provisional damages.

The guide is not intended as a detailed analysis of the law relating to catastrophic claims. We nevertheless explore many of the legal, medical and tactical issues that arise when dealing with these claims and offer practical guidance on best practice.

Catastrophic claims continue to present challenging issues, particularly in view of the high financial and human costs involved. We hope this guide will provide assistance when dealing with the many complex issues that arise.



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