

A photograph of a surgical light fixture in an operating room. The fixture consists of several circular lamps with gold-colored reflectors, arranged in a semi-circle. The background is a light blue wall. A dark blue diagonal bar is overlaid on the right side of the image.

UK LEGAL GUIDE

Medical law

Fourth edition

Kennedys

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Introduction

Welcome to the fourth edition of Kennedys' medical law guide.

Medical law is rarely out of the news. Whether it is a controversial treatment decision, the allocation of scarce resources, a prominent inquest or a public inquiry, the provision of healthcare and the law surrounding it will always be a complex and fascinating subject. We have seen this all too recently with the tragic cases involving Charlie Gard and Alfie Evans. Medical law can make these heart breaking and emotional decisions both easier and infinitely more challenging at the same time.

Our team has been at the forefront of medical law for over 30 years. We continue to work on high profile investigations, inquests, judicial reviews and treatment decisions and strive to remain at the cutting edge. As this dynamic sector evolves, so does the offering to our clients. With that in mind, I am particularly pleased to use this forward to welcome a new partner to our healthcare team, Joanne O'Sullivan, who was of great assistance in updating this guide.

This fourth edition of our medical law guide looks at the main issues case handlers will encounter, examines their practical implications and draws on our experiences of dealing with similar situations. We have added a new chapter dedicated to GDPR and what we anticipate will be the new Data Protection Act. As with earlier editions, the aim is for this to be a simple guide to the main issues encountered in medical law. It is not possible to set out comprehensively all of the legal and practical matters. Nevertheless, I hope that you continue to find this guide helpful.

As ever, your feedback is always welcomed and will be taken on board in any future editions. A continued thank you to everyone in the amazing team of lawyers we have at Kennedys who have contributed to this fourth edition.



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