

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT

Table DS1 Example vignettes (verbatim) and litigation costs for 'assess patient' categories		
Stage in patient journey	Vignette	Litigation cost
Patient assessed (initial)	'Schizophrenic. Failure to assess severity of mental condition and admit to hospital, leading to attempted suicide with paralysis to right side of body'	£168 394
	'Failure to make adequate diagnosis and provide appropriate psychiatric treatment. Following gunshot wound and overdose: abandonment of previous diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, new diagnosis personality disorder'	£3 182 413
	'Alleged failure to identify and properly treat neuroleptic malignant syndrome'	£244 901
	'Delay in diagnosing a brain abscess. Admitted to ward. Transferred to hospital ITU'	£781 162
	'Wrongly decided that the deceased should not be readmitted when was in no fit mental state to take care for own safety and was plainly a danger to self and others. Following discharge, the deceased walked into the path of a motorcycle'	£202 844
Patient assessed (interpret results)	'Renal failure in claimant due to lithium treatment. Alleged failure/delay to monitor levels of creatinine which could have prevented this'	£131 096
	'Patient with severe behavioural problems and epilepsy allowed to bathe unsupervised. Was found near drowned, resuscitated and is now in a [persistent] near vegetative state'	£2 194 739
	'Claimant was under the care of consultant at the defendant trust. The claimant had a 10-year history of amphetamine addiction. Consultant had tried a number of different drugs and the claimant started to develop agoraphobia'	£2 018 310
	'Claimant is alleging was not monitored adequately in the psychiatric unit – had a history of asking to be killed – was permitted use of a radio wire on which he attempted to hang himself'	£2 188 152
Patient assessed (risk)	'Alleged refusal of antidepressants leading to patient walking in front of a train resulting in amputation of both legs.'	£515 753
	'Patient hanged self whilst detained as a patient'	£105 089
	'Suffered from psychological illness, in-patient in mental health unit allowed home, attempted suicide, re-admitted, jumped from balcony in hospital, suffering severe injuries'	£338 480
	'Failure to adequately supervise patient – jumped from hospital window'	£205 981
	'Patient smashed window of room. Found hanging out of the window. Patient lowered self from the window frame and then jumped to the ground. Fell a distance of 40 ft. Sustained serious injuries; fractured skull, cerebral cont[usion], fractured pelvis'	£639 213

ft, feet; ITU, intensive treatment unit.