

# HILL DICKINSON

## CORONERS' INQUESTS

### ESSENTIAL TRAINING

A Coroner's Inquest into the death of a patient or service user poses legal and practical challenges for an NHS Body. There may have been an allegation of gross negligence and a Police Inquiry or a threatened civil claim to consider, adverse publicity, complaints, documents and statements to prepare for the Coroner and staff to support.

During 2007, Coroners' Inquests were increasingly in the public eye and this is likely to increase with the Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007 which came into force on 6 April 2008. NHS Bodies should carefully manage those Inquests in which they are involved.

Careful preparation and management of an Inquest is essential in avoiding damaging verdicts being returned by the Coroner and reported by the press, and can often result in the early resolution or defence of a threatened civil claim.

## Hill Dickinson training

Hill Dickinson provides bespoke training for:

- Senior Executives and managers who will be responsible for preparing for Inquests, including managing staff who are called to give evidence, and
- Individual healthcare professionals who may be required to attend to give evidence at an Inquest.

### Specific topics include:

- The purpose and procedure at an Inquest
- The verdicts explained!
- Practical tips on report writing, giving evidence and lesson learning
- Practical case studies and discussion

### Training package

1 hour seminar (including break) followed by 30 minutes consideration and discussion of case studies. £600 plus VAT (only £30 per head on a basis of 20 people attending!).

Training can take place at a venue of your choice and be tailored to your organisation's needs.

### The Hill Dickinson Inquest Team

The Hill Dickinson healthcare team provides a comprehensive range of legal advice and support to NHS Bodies involved in Coroners' Inquests. The team are experienced in advising on complex Inquests, where Article 2 of the Human Rights Act 1998 is engaged, Inquests following deaths in custody before a Jury through to Inquests into the deaths of NHS patients; from advising on suitability of witness statements, to full advocacy and representation at Inquests. Members of the team regularly lecture to a range of audiences within the NHS and public sector.

[www.hilldickinson.com](http://www.hilldickinson.com)

**For further information please contact:**

**Joanna Trewin** Partner

0161 817 7373 [joanna.trewin@hilldickinson.com](mailto:joanna.trewin@hilldickinson.com)

**Rebecca Fitzpatrick** Associate

0161 817 7296 [rebecca.fitzpatrick@hilldickinson.com](mailto:rebecca.fitzpatrick@hilldickinson.com)

**Sharon Wilson** Partner

0151 600 8249 [sharon.wilson@hilldickinson.com](mailto:sharon.wilson@hilldickinson.com)

**Emma DiGiacomo** Associate

0151 600 8173 [emma.digiacomo@hilldickinson.com](mailto:emma.digiacomo@hilldickinson.com)