About Us…..

- We have built our firm on the ethos that we will act ethically, fairly and in a socially responsible way. As part of this commitment, we donate 10% of our net annual profits to good causes including the John Pickering and Partners Charitable Trust.
- We are prepared to take the financial risk of pursuing difficult cases that help to preserve and promote the rights of asbestos sufferers.
- Unlike many other firms, we act exclusively for asbestos sufferers. We do not act for Defendants.
- We have over 45 years experience and all our solicitors specialise in asbestos claims including mesothelioma and have specialist asbestos accreditation from APIL.

Did we learn any lessons from the Mesothelioma Audit 2018?
Interview with Lorraine Creech, CNS Team Leader with Mesothelioma UK.

The latest Mesothelioma Audit was released in June 2018, produced by the Royal College of Physicians and funded by Mesothelioma UK.

The Audit provided data on 7192 patients diagnosed with mesothelioma in England and Wales during 2014-2016 including for the first time those with peritoneal mesothelioma.

Lorraine Creech explains what we learned from the survey, why it’s of value to patients and what needs to improve.

What do you think were the main points in the audit?

- It was good that 51% of patients received some form of anti-cancer treatment and an increase on previous audits to 40% having chemotherapy.
- Pathological diagnosis was obtained in 88% of cases and in 64% subtypes were recorded with a variation across Cancer Networks. We need more sub-typing to enable patients to have the most appropriate treatment and entry into clinical trials.
- It was good that 51% of patients received anti-cancer treatment and an increase on previous audits to 40% having chemotherapy.
- However, variation by Network remains.

Why do you think only 51% of patients received anti-cancer treatment?

- It is difficult to answer this specifically. There was a big variation by different networks. It is something to be worked on.
- It could be related to not all patients having access to a specialist MDT and discussion at a specialist MDT meeting.

Why do you think none of the recommendations and standards in the last audit were achieved?

- Because there is still a lot of work to do. Mesothelioma is still classed as a rare disease and we are also looking back to figures from 2014 to 2016 in the latest report. I hope that if it was data from 2018 it would be improved and future audits reflect this.

Clinical trials have also improved. There has been a plethora of clinical trials which will help as will hopefully help with better treatment. The establishment of expert teams, including pleural teams and the development of specialist MDT meetings is vital and could make a difference.
The John Pickering and Partners Charity

The Charity has donated £1200 to Leeds based Mesothelioma Support Yorkshire. MESSY is a vital information resource for those affected by mesothelioma living in West and North Yorkshire.

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Helen Wilson, Solicitor for Mr Coombs said of the case “Time was of the essence in Dave’s case and the time for pursuing a claim could easily expire. Dave’s case is a prime example of why it is important that people go to a specialist asbestos solicitor.”

Dave said “As a young 16 year old lad starting out in life, getting an apprenticeship was like a lottery win, a job with a trade which would see me through the rest of my life. Little did I know that at 17 years old I would be handled what I feel is a death sentence, a silent killer which would surface in my late 50’s and hit me like a ton of bricks. So my future is uncertain and I try to live my life to the fullest on a day to day basis. Me and my beautiful Canadian wife are moving to a small acreage with our 2 German Shepherd dogs. We would like to thank Helen for all the hard work put into our case for her patience and experience in dealing with frustration and anger at the company that did this to me. Helen goes over and above for others affected by this disease. Helen was the main person who has the most misfortune in dealing with this horrendous and life altering disease, yet in most cases all make a difference and strive to improve care.

There should be access to specialist treatment with a focus on the importance of diagnosis and treatment. As per the previous audits, the data demonstrated a clear need for the setting up of Regional MPM MDT meetings in order to drive forward improved diagnosis, treatment, care and clinical trials for patients.

Why do you think only 54% of patients in England were seen at diagnosis, treatment, care and clinical trials and second opinions. If trials are not available locally patients may choose to travel and be referred to main treating centers.

I hope people will be better informed, provided with relevant evidence and support from Mesothelioma UK to find out what is available for patients, carers and professionals.

Lorraine covers the North of Scotland and Wales. Mesothelioma UK is a national specialist charity dedicated to providing support, information, support and education and improving care and treatment for those affected by mesothelioma.

There is a longer version of this article on our website.