



Cauda equina syndrome and medical negligence

Author: [Megan Stanley](#)

Email: megans@hallpayne.com.au

Phone: 07 3017 2400

Date: Tuesday December 31, 2019

Medical negligence claims are brought against medical practitioners and institutions (for example, a hospital) that have caused or contributed to your suffering or injury. In this article, we look at what may lead to a medical negligence claim for sufferers of cauda equina syndrome.

What is Cauda Equina Syndrome?

Cauda Equina Syndrome is a serious condition that occurs when the bundle of nerves at the base of the spinal cord are damaged.

If the condition is left untreated for any time, or there is a delay in diagnosing the condition, then a permanent disability is very possible.

Low back pain can be a symptom of this serious condition and the consequences for the person suffering cauda equina syndrome can be devastating. By way of example, it can lead to incontinence and even permanent paralysis.

The consequences of cauda equina syndrome can have significant impacts on the mental wellbeing of the sufferer. The severity of the symptoms can impact a person's ability to work. Bladder or bowel incontinence problems can be extremely distressing for those suffering the syndrome and may well negatively impact the person's social life and relationships with others.

Why might medical negligence occur?

On occasions, it is possible that the standard of treatment received by a person may fall short of that which the medical profession considers appropriate.

If the cauda equina syndrome has resulted from a medical error, such as a failure to diagnose the condition or treat the condition in a timely way, then the sufferer of the condition may have a claim for compensation.

Medical negligence claims are, by their very nature, complex and require significant knowledge and expertise.

Are there time limits?

There are time limits when it comes to making a claim for medical negligence.

Your entitlement to compensation may be lost if you claim late. Generally, in Queensland, the time limit is three years from the date of the negligent incident. However, there are many exceptions to this general rule.

Do not just assume you are out of time to investigate a claim for medical negligence. [It is important to seek expert advice of a lawyer experienced in medical negligence cases.](#)

Contact us

Hall Payne knows that when you are dealing with the consequences of an injury or illness, it is a very challenging time. Financial stress can make the situation overwhelming. [If you would like to discuss your or a family member's circumstances surrounding any form of alleged medical negligence, please contact HPL for advice.](#)

This article relates to Australian law; either at a State or Federal level. The information contained on this site is for general guidance only. No person should act or refrain from acting on the basis of such information. Appropriate professional advice should be sought based upon your particular circumstances. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Hall Payne Lawyers.