

Medico-Legal Tips for New Hospitals

- Aaditya Koshe (Director, Anantavi Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.)

Starting a new hospital is always a challenge job. Managing hundred different things at a time, like looking for a place, building infrastructure, recruiting staff, etc. the list is endless.

From the experience at our organization, with multiple doctors there are two main things that you need, to start a new successful hospital: 'Your Judgment' and 'A Little Bit of Luck'.

There are certain guidelines that you need for a successful Hospital. In the following article I am going try to give you a few medicolegal pointers that might be useful for you, assuming that you have decided to start a hospital and you have set up the hospital building.

1. Talk to a medicolegal expert:

There are more than 50 laws and regulation that you need to follow. There are experts who can help you with all statutory requirements with Medical council, Hospital Registration under Bombay Nursing Home Act or Clinical Establishment Act, PCPNDT and MTP registrations, Qualified staff, Pharmacist, Various Licenses etc. I know most doctor don't want to spend that kind of money but is very useful to help save the harassment by the authorities in the future.

2. Standardize your systems from day one:

Systems once set become a habit. If you start your hospital with standardized practices you will be able to scale up your practice much better. These may include your preoperative procedures, your handling of emergency patients etc. It is important that your write down these procedures and see to that they are being followed.

3. Standardize your Medical Record:

Medical records are your lifeline if anything goes wrong. It is always advised by a medico-legal expert to document everything and anything that is done in the hospital. We at **Anant Enterprises** have many such Medicolegal Document which can help you in the smooth working of your Hospital. As a rule, maintaining records for 5-10 years or more is mandatory.

4. Get consent for everything:

Consent is the mother of all documentation. A consent is a unilateral agreement for the patient towards a doctor. There is already a lot of content around as to how a consent should be, but I have tried to sum up the main points that you need to have in a consent.

- a) Consent should cover all risks which may take place.
- b) Doctor should make sure that the patient has understood all the points in the Consent.
- b) Consent should be read and signed by the patient / relative.

c) It should be stored with utmost care.

5. Indemnify yourself hospital:

Medical practise is full of uncertainties. You need to protect not just yourself, but also your staff with insurance. All national medical bodies like IMA, FOGSI will help you get an insurance.

6. Treat Your staff as your family:

Your employees are an extension of you. They are your representatives, so they should be as polite and helpful you are. When you chose your employees always go for trained staff so that that reduces your effort to train them. It is advisable to follow wages Act (even if you have 1 employee).

7. Be a member of the Local Medical professional bodies:

There is a saying "united we stand...." when you start a hospital, you are going to be part of a community, so it is always better to be a member of any local Medical professional bodies. If there isn't, start a community of hospitals; it will help you solve a lot of problems. IMA in India is a very strong community.

8. Visit a neighboring hospital:

Your neighbor will be the best guide for you to identify the kind of problems you might face in the hospital. Go across and find out all the requirement and problems that they have because you are also going through the same problems.

9. Make friends with the local Cops:

It is an unsaid rule that Police and doctors scratch each other's back. You are going to need the police to be on your side in unforeseen situations. Especially if you are going to take medicolegal cases, they are going to be frequent visitors to your hospital.

10. Be considerate, truthful, polite, adjustable:

Being considerate, truthful, polite, adjustable sets the right tone for medical practice. Though a hospital is finally a business, but it has got far more implications to it than just give and take. It is about building relationships that make hospitals work. A simple smile dose a trick sometimes.

Anantavi Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. 'Paresh Apts', 235/B-2, Parvati, Pune - 411009

(020)24423598 / 24424549. Mob: 9423009621

Email: anantent_pune@yahoo.com / order@anantent.com

Website: www.anantent.com

