

Professor H M Hodkinson, MA, DM (Oxon), FRCP, Grad Dip Law, Barrister

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I have had over thirty years experience in geriatric medicine with over 28 years at consultant level. I am emeritus professor of geriatric medicine of University College London. During my training years I also had experience in general medicine, general surgery, rheumatology, rehabilitation and acute psychiatry. I have retired from clinical practice and therefore do not hold a current licence to practice but remain a registered medical practitioner (GMC No 0361387). I hold professional insurance with respect to medico-legal practice.

As a specialist in geriatric medicine I had a wide experience of acute and long-term illness, disability and rehabilitation in the elderly. I have had special interests in the areas of bone and joint disease and metabolic bone disease, laboratory investigation of the elderly, therapeutics and nutrition and mental impairment in the elderly. I have published papers in all these areas.

As regards psychiatry of the elderly, as a consultant in geriatric medicine I have had a very wide experience of the diagnosis and treatment of dementias, confusional states (delirium) and depressive illness. I was coordinator and wrote the final report of a large multi-centre study of mental impairment of the elderly for the Royal College of Physicians and have written a number of other papers on mental impairment in the elderly. I was a member of a special working party on mental disturbance in the elderly set up by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Psychiatrists. For six years I was involved in holding weekly joint case conferences with a psychogeriatrician at St Pancras Hospital. A substantial part of my medical expert witness experience has concerned assessment of the mental capability of elderly persons. I designed and published a widely used test of mental impairment in the elderly, the Abbreviated Mental Test, which is still widely used in medicine of the elderly to assess cognitive function. The original paper has the highest number of citations of papers published in the journal *Age & Ageing*.

I am a former examiner in Medicine for the Royal College of Physicians of London for the examinations of LRCP MRCS, MRCP and DGM (Diploma of Geriatric Medicine). I have published widely on geriatric medicine and mental impairment in the elderly, including over 100 research papers but also chapters in books, two single author books and have edited a multi-author book. I was formerly editor of a specialty journal "Age & Ageing". I contributed a medical section to a legal textbook "Contentious Probate Claims", A Francis and H Marten, 2003.

I have worked as a medical expert witness for approximately twenty-eight years and currently deal with approximately 100-120 cases per year. I am experienced at giving evidence in court. I have in the past sat for 3 years as a medical member of Disability Appeal Tribunals, dealing with all age groups, sitting

approximately 40 days per year. I have undertaken training as a Joint Expert and am a member of the Expert Witness Institute.

I obtained the Graduate Diploma of Law (with merit) at Westminster University in 2000. I completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in 2001, passing the examinations at 'Very Competent' grade with an 'Outstanding' grade in Advanced Civil Law. I was called to the bar at Middle Temple on 11th October 2001. I was employed part-time by Action for Victims of Medical Accidents after completing the bar course in May 2001, working as a medical adviser to the Lawyers' Service section until April 2002. I then completed a pupillage at Lamb Building, Temple, and became a tenant at Mitre Court Chambers, Temple, for one year, practising criminal law and civil law. I was then a tenant at Kew Chambers for five years undertaking entirely civil work, particularly personal injury but also medical negligence and other aspects of medical law. I ended my bar practice with effect from 1/1/09 to concentrate entirely on my work as a medical expert witness.

I have had considerable expert witness experience in the areas of;

- 1 Mental impairment in the elderly, especially in regard to testamentary capacity.
- 2 Personal injury, skeletal disease in old age, disability, stroke, dementia, Parkinson's disease and rehabilitation.
- 3 Medical Negligence and professional negligence in homes for the elderly.
- 4 Care needs of the elderly.
- 5 Estimation of life expectancy.
- 6 Pressure sores and their prevention and treatment.

My work is approximately 60% claimant, 35% defendant and 5% joint.

I am available to visit clients provided that they are within 60 miles of my base in Chiswick, London.

I do not undertake legally aided work or criminal cases and do not accept cases from Scotland or Ireland.

H M Hodkinson