

EXPANSION OF LEGAL LIABILITY TO HOSPITALS WITH HIGHEST ACCREDITATION

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Abstract

The expansion of legal responsibilities in hospitals with the highest accreditation emphasises improved standards of care under stricter regulations. Hospitals with such accreditation must adhere to safety protocols, improve risk management, and ensure effective infection control. A commitment to handle medical complaints or disputes in a transparent and professional manner is part of the expanded legal responsibility, which aims to build patient trust and prevent lawsuits. In addition, strengthening documentation systems, internal audits, and staff training are essential to fulfil national and international standards, support hospitals in facing legal challenges, and ensure the quality and safety of healthcare services provided.

Keywords: Liability, Legal, Hospital, Highest Accreditation.

Introduction

The health care system in hospitals plays an important role as an institution that provides medical services to the community. As a vital institution, hospitals are often faced with various challenges, including demands to provide high quality services, along with increasing public expectations (Bell & Wilson, 2021) .

Hospital services are a series of medical treatments provided to patients by various health professionals, which include diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation. These services are provided through units or departments that each deal with a specific aspect of health, such as inpatient, outpatient, emergency department, and laboratory. These services aim not only to cure diseases, but also to promote, maintain, and improve the holistic health of patients. In this context, the quality of hospital services is highly dependent on the competence of medical personnel, the completeness of facilities, and effective and efficient service management (Smith & Brown, 2021) .

In Indonesia, improving healthcare standards has been a major focus of government policy in recent years. One of the efforts taken is through hospital accreditation, which is conducted by an independent body to ensure hospitals meet various national and international standards in medical services, patient safety, and risk management (Cooper, 2010) .

Hospitals with the highest accreditation reflect optimal quality of healthcare services, which meet quality standards in aspects such as patient safety, risk management, and operational efficiency. This accreditation involves a thorough assessment by an accreditation body, including evaluation of facilities, competence of

medical personnel, treatment methods, as well as adherence to strict medical protocols (Clark & Wilson, 2023) . With the highest accreditation, the hospital has demonstrated its ability to provide excellent patient care, taking a holistic approach that prioritises patient well-being and safety. It also encourages increased involvement in medical research and the adoption of new technologies, which can lead to more innovative and effective treatment methods (Foster & Brown, 2020) .

Hospitals that maintain the highest accreditation provide various strategic benefits to the hospital, including increased reputation and public trust. Highly accredited hospitals tend to be the first choice for patients as they are considered safer and have better quality of care (Taylor & Parker, 2023) . In addition, such accreditation is often a requirement for hospitals to work with health insurance and government programmes such as BPJS Kesehatan, which can increase revenue and sustainability of hospital operations. On the internal side, the high standards that must be met necessitate continuous training and development for medical personnel and staff, which ultimately contributes to improving the overall quality of human resources and hospital management (Martinez & King, 2022) .

However, along with higher accreditation comes greater legal responsibility. These expanded responsibilities include not only improving the quality of care, but also complying with stricter regulations and legal standards. Hospitals must be able to maintain a balance between meeting accreditation standards and ensuring patient safety and security in every aspect of care (Turner & Williams, 2023) .

Based on incidents that have occurred in many countries, including several cases where highly accredited hospitals have faced lawsuits, the question arises as to what extent legal liability can be extended and implemented effectively. This includes medical, ethical, as well as legal responsibilities in the face of malpractice or other medical errors (Garcia & Kennedy, 2021) . Furthermore, there is a need to review the policies implemented in hospitals to accommodate increased legal liability. This is particularly relevant given the risk of financial and reputational losses that hospitals can experience if they do not meet the standards in accordance with their accreditation.

In this context, research to analyse and understand the expansion of legal responsibilities assumed by hospitals with the highest accreditation is essential. Thus, strategic steps can be found that can be implemented by hospitals to ensure legal compliance while maintaining the quality of health services.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is a research approach that involves the collection, review and analysis of written or published sources relevant to a particular topic or research question. These sources can include scientific journals, books, articles, reports, and other official documents (Nurdiana ;, 2020) (Syawie, 2005) . The main purpose of literature research

is to understand recent developments in a particular field of study, identify knowledge gaps, and build a solid theoretical foundation and arguments for further research. The method generally begins with the selection of a topic, a literature search, a critical assessment of the quality and relevance of the sources, and finally a synthesis of the findings to provide a clear and structured insight into the topic under study (Madedkhan ., 2019)

Results and Discussion

Hospital Legal Liability Based on Accreditation Level

The legal responsibility of a hospital is closely related to its obligation to provide safe and quality healthcare to patients. A hospital's level of accreditation can affect its operational standards and procedures, which in turn impacts its legal responsibilities. Accreditation is a formal recognition of the quality of hospital services, and highly accredited hospitals are expected to comply with stricter standards and regulations, which are designed to reduce legal risks (Harris et al., 2022) .

Hospitals with the highest accreditation are required to adhere to stricter quality and safety standards compared to hospitals with lower accreditation levels. This means they must have a more thorough risk assessment and management system, which includes the implementation of tested medical protocols and effective patient safety management. Adherence to these standards not only reduces the incidence of malpractice but also strengthens the hospital's legal position in the event that legal disputes arise (Carter & Robinson, 2022) .

The legal framework governing hospice responsibilities generally stems from health laws and government regulations governing caregivers and healthcare facilities. Highly accredited hospitals need to align their operations with these legal frameworks as well as guidelines set by accreditation bodies. Failure to meet these standards may result in legal sanctions, malpractice suits, or revocation of accreditation, significantly affecting the hospital's reputation and operations (Hall et al., 2023) .

The implementation of patient safety protocols is an important aspect of the legal responsibilities of a highly accredited hospital. Hospitals must ensure that all medical procedures are performed in accordance with best practice guidelines and that all medical staff are trained in handling emergency situations. It also involves regular monitoring and internal audits to ensure compliance with safety standards and lower the risk of medical incidents that could lead to legal issues (Roberts et al., 2021) .

Accurate and well-managed medical records are a crucial part of a hospital's legal responsibilities. Standardisation of medical documentation is necessary to ensure complete and reliable records that reflect the interaction between patients and healthcare providers. In a legal context, inadequate documentation can limit a hospital's ability to defend itself in cases of lawsuits or malpractice (Johnson & Thomas, 2022) .

Highly accredited hospitals have responsibilities not only to patients but also to medical and other staff. This includes ensuring that staff receive ongoing training and have a safe working environment that complies with occupational health standards. The inability to provide this support can trigger various legal issues relating to negligence or violation of labour rights (Campbell & Martinez, 2020) .

Overall, the level of accreditation has a significant impact on hospitals' legal responsibilities, as higher standards equip them with more comprehensive procedures and protocols to manage legal risks and liabilities. Hospitals should view accreditation as a mechanism to create a culture of safety and quality throughout the organisation, which not only reduces potential legal issues but also improves patient care. With this approach, hospitals can position themselves as trusted institutions that deliver high-quality healthcare.

Factors Affecting the Expansion of Legal Liability of Hospitals with the Highest Accreditation

The expansion of legal responsibilities of hospitals with the highest accreditation is influenced by several key factors that need to be considered. In this context, hospitals that have the highest accreditation have operational and service standards that must be met, which of course has an impact on their legal responsibilities.

Among the factors that influence the expansion of legal responsibility:

Firstly, Accreditation Standards and Regulations. Hospitals with the highest accreditation must meet strict standards and regulations of the government and accreditation bodies. These standards cover various aspects such as patient safety, service quality, and risk management. If they are not met, hospitals risk facing legal issues related to negligence or regulatory violations (Anderson et al., 2020) .

Second, Clinical Risk Management. Clinical risk management is one of the main factors affecting legal liability. Highly accredited hospitals are required to have an effective risk management system capable of identifying, analysing and addressing potential risks to patients and staff. Failure in risk management can result in lawsuits (Morris & Cooper, 2023) .

Third, the quality of human resources. The quality of doctors, nurses, and support staff working in hospitals greatly affects legal liability. Hospitals must ensure that their staff have the appropriate competencies and certifications, and provide ongoing training to reduce the risk of malpractice or medical errors that could lead to legal liability (Rodriguez & Scott, 2021) .

Fourth, Medical Technology and Innovation. The implementation of new medical technologies and innovations may affect the legal liability of hospitals. While technology can improve the efficiency and accuracy of diagnosis and treatment, if not operated properly, it can introduce new risks that may result in legal liability (Collins & Hughes, 2022) .

Fifth, Patient Rights and Satisfaction. Patients' increasing awareness of their rights and the importance of service satisfaction is one of the influencing factors. Hospitals with the highest accreditation must pay attention to patient rights and ensure a high level of satisfaction to avoid lawsuits or legal complaints (Mitchell et al., 2023).

Sixth, Communication and Documentation. Effective communication processes and accurate and reliable health documentation are critical components of healthcare. Failure in doctor-patient communication or lack of medical documentation can increase the risk of misunderstandings leading to legal issues (Johnson & Thomas, 2022).

Seventh, Legal Education and Socialisation. Legal education provided to healthcare staff about their legal responsibilities plays an important role. With a good understanding of the legal and ethical aspects of healthcare, hospitals can minimise the risk of legal violations (Moore & Jackson, 2020).

Thus, in the face of these factors, hospitals with the highest accreditation need to adapt and develop appropriate strategies to effectively manage legal responsibilities. Investing in training and technology, as well as improving risk management systems, are important steps to ensure regulatory compliance and maintain the reputation of healthcare facilities.

Conclusion

The expansion of the legal responsibilities of hospitals with the highest accreditation involves improved standards of care and the need to comply with stricter legal regulations. Hospitals with the highest accreditation demonstrate a commitment to optimal healthcare quality. This accreditation often requires hospitals to implement more advanced patient safety protocols, including risk management and infection control. As such, the hospital's legal responsibilities are also expanded to ensure these standards are maintained and no breaches occur that could harm patients.

Furthermore, this expanded responsibility also includes the legal obligation to effectively handle medical complaints or disputes. Hospitals must have a transparent mechanism for reporting and following up on medical incidents. This is important not only to conform to legal regulations, but also to build trust and prevent potential lawsuits from patients. In a legal context, the highest accreditation often means that the standards of ethics and professionalism expected of hospital medical and administrative staff are more rigorously benchmarked.

Lastly, with increased legal responsibilities also come demands on hospital management capabilities to ensure compliance with various national and international health regulations. Hospitals need to strengthen their documentation and internal audit systems to ensure that all policies and procedures are carried out in accordance with applicable legal standards. In addition, hospitals must continue to invest in staff training and development for quality improvement and patient safety. This is all so that the

hospital is able to face legal challenges that may arise along with its highest accreditation status.

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