
UCLA Procedure 303.1: Medical Malpractice Suit Settlement

Issuing Officer: Medical Sciences Provost
Responsible Dept: Medical Center Risk Management
Effective Date: January 1, 1999
Supersedes: UCLA Policy 1010.1, dated 11/30/77

I. REFERENCES
II. BACKGROUND
III. PROCEDURES

I. REFERENCES

1. UC Business and Finance Bulletin BUS-9, Professional Medical and Hospital Liability Self-Insurance Program, 6/14/91;
2. UCLA Medical Center, Medical Staff Bylaws and Medical Staff Rules and Regulations, 1997-98;
3. UCLA Policy 303, Professional Medical Malpractice and Liability Coverage, 4/27/99.

II. BACKGROUND

The burgeoning of medical malpractice litigation and the consequent large increases in costs to the University through its Professional Medical and Hospital Liability Self-Insurance Program make the management and settlement of such lawsuits an important administrative concern. This procedure institutes formal steps to be followed in seeking settlement of medical malpractice lawsuits.

III. PROCEDURES

Formal consideration of settlement occurs only after a responsible officer of the University or the attorney assigned to defend a case (through our third party administrator), makes a formal request for settlement authority.

RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Affected Physician, Third Party Administrator or Defense Attorney	Proposes settlement of a malpractice claim to the Medical Center Risk Manager as a result of professional medical liability for which the Regents are responsible (see BUS-9 and UCLA Policy 303).
Medical Center Risk Manager	Discusses the settlement request with the Medical Risk Management Subcommittee of the Medical Staff Executive Committee.
Medical Risk Management Subcommittee	Gathers input from affected physicians and consults with Medical Center Administration, University Third Party Administrator and Campus Counsel before making a decision regarding whether or not the standard of care was met.
Medical Center Director	Considers the recommendation of the Medical Risk Management Subcommittee along with recommendations of the Third Party Administrator, Medical Center Risk Manager and Director, Quality Management Services and makes the campus determination to approve or reject the proposed settlement.

RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION
Medical Center Risk Manager	Communicates the campus determination to Systemwide Risk Mangement Office for final decision.
	Prepares settlement agreement or documentation upon advice of University Counsel.

Issuing Officer

/s/ Gerald S. Levey, M.D.

Provost, Medical Sciences

**Questions concerning this policy or procedure should be referred to
the Responsible Department listed at the top of this document.**
