



Dr Chris Danbury

Mediator since 2015

Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator

Specialist areas: Serious medical treatment & clinical negligence

Chris is a Consultant Intensive Care Physician and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer.

Chris has over 30 years' experience as a doctor. He trained in general internal medicine, microbiology/virology and anaesthesia before switching to intensive care medicine. In 2002 he was appointed as consultant intensive physician, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and he moved to University Hospital Southampton in December 2020.

Chris's research interests are in complex decision making related to serious medical treatment. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Experts and a member of the Court of Protection Practitioners Association.

Awards:

- Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine for services to the science and practice of Forensic and Legal Medicine
- Commended by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine for sustained contribution to the specialty of Intensive Care Medicine
- Senior Visiting Research Fellowship, School of Law, University of Reading
- Visiting Fellowship, Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London

Present appointments:

- Consultant Intensive Care Physician, University Hospital Southampton
- Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton
- Healthcare Mediator, Trust Mediation

Past appointments:

- Consultant Intensive Care Physician and Anaesthetist Royal Berkshire Hospital
- Founding Chair, Legal and Ethical Policy Unit, Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM)
- Co-Chair, Joint Standards Committee, FICM / ICS
- Member, Professional Affairs & Safety Committee, FICM
- Member, Ethics Committee, Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Visitor, Medical Ethics Committee, British Medical Association
- Member, Committee of Ethics in Medicine, Royal College of Physicians
- Honorary Secretary and Council Member, Intensive Care Society
- Member, Adult Critical Care Clinical Reference Group, NHS England
- Medical Lead for Intensive Care Medicine, Royal Berkshire Hospital

Mediation Experience

Clinical Negligence:

Chris is currently the only practicing doctor who is recognised by NHS Resolution to mediate clinical negligence disputes. His experience in medical law means that he understands and is fully prepared to examine the issues of liability, causation and quantum. At the same time, he has a great deal of experience in dealing with the emotions that can develop, both from the claimant and on occasion the defence. He is experienced in helping parties bridge what, at first glance, appears to be an insurmountable gap. He is on the Faculty of the London School of Mediation.

Serious Medical Treatment:

Chris is experienced in mediating serious medical treatment disputes, one of very few mediators specialising in this area. He has successfully mediated disputes similar to *Gard* [2017] EWHC 1909 (Fam). This is an emotionally challenging area, but Chris has a high success rate with 80% of these mediations settling on the day or within the week. Even in the mediations that do not settle, there is a narrowing of the issues in dispute and the overwhelming majority of participants have said that they found the process helpful.

Key Publications

Johal, Harleen Kaur, and Christopher Danbury. 'Conflict before the Courtroom: Challenging Cognitive Biases in Critical Decision-Making'.

Journal of Medical Ethics, 29 November 2021.

<https://jme.bmj.com/content/47/12/e36.info>.

Kentish-Barnes, Nancy, Chris Danbury, Julie Benbenishty, and Elie Azoulay. 'Shared Decision-Making With Patients and Families'. In *Compelling Ethical Challenges in Critical Care and Emergency Medicine*, edited by Andrej Michalsen and Nicholas Sadovnikoff, 65–73. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-43127-3_7.

Danbury, Christopher, Christopher Newdick, Alex Ruck Keene, and Carl Waldmann, eds. *Law and Ethics in Intensive Care*. Second Edition. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/law-and-ethics-in-intensive-care-9780198817161?cc=gb&lang=en&>

Newdick, Christopher, and Christopher Danbury. 'Culture, Compassion and Clinical Neglect: Probity in the NHS after Mid Staffordshire'. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 41, no. 12 (1 December 2015): 956. <https://doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2012-101048>.

A full list of publications can be found at <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7807-0541>

Testimonials

"I'd worked previously with Chris Danbury as an expert in a case that went to the Supreme Court and thought he would be ideally placed to mediate a solution in a difficult dispute between clinicians and a family member about specific treatment during the pandemic. His unique combination of skills as a mediator and an intensivist allowed us to reach an agreement that satisfied all parties. Importantly we avoided expensive, time-consuming litigation with all the uncertainties and stress for family members and clinicians that it brings. It also allowed the family to maintain a working relationship with the clinicians at the Trust where the patient will continue to be cared for. The best possible outcome for all concerned."

Michael Mylonas KC

"I instructed Chris when relations between the patient's next of kin and the ICU clinical team had fundamentally broken down over a conflict as to what course of action was in the patient's best interests. Chris's exceptional experience and skill set in this niche field, calm authority, proactive and quietly determined manner, meant he was rapidly able to establish the trust of the family member and the professional respect of the treating team, facilitate constructive communication and formulate a pragmatic, cost-effective and mutually agreeable solution. This was a remarkable result in all the circumstances."

Sarah Williams, Legal Director, Payne Hicks Beach

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