



BRITISH SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE & PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR BSE MEMBERS

INFORMATION SHEET 2018/19

HISTORY

On 1st APRIL 2010, we started a special insurance scheme for members with preferential rates

This ran in line with the anniversary of BSE Membership of 1st April and members could join the insurance scheme at any point throughout the insurance year

Sadly from 1st APRIL 2015 the scheme was withdrawn due to lack of numbers and the insurer (Marketform Ltd) was replaced by Novae Underwriting Ltd, another specialist Medical Malpractice insurer in Lloyds of London, who agreed to match the cover

Although premiums increased substantially, Novae were still offering preferential rates lower than they or Marketform would normally charge, and Novae agreed to match the scheme cover as well as the claims excess of £500 instead of increasing it to theirs and Marketform's usual minimum of £1,000

So from 1st April 2015 each member will have their own annual policy, whether renewing their cover or insuring for the first time

Below is a history of the scheme so you can see what was originally negotiated

We were approached by the BSE in December 2008 with a view to putting together an insurance scheme for its members to cover medical negligence liability for private/freelance work, as the cost to individuals typically £800 or more for a £1m non-invasive duties limit.

The BSE subsequently undertook a survey at the Annual Meeting that year, and also on the website, and **OVER 90% OF RESPONDERS** who voted expressed an interest.

After lengthy negotiations a scheme was set up from **1st APRIL 2010** with Marketform Ltd, a leading specialist medical malpractice insurer.

Following representation at the Liverpool Conference in November 2009 and a further ballot we gave members a choice of levels of cover and the majority voted for £1m limit with a £500 claims excess so the scheme was originally based upon that

THE COST OF INSURANCE UNDER THE SCHEME WAS UP TO 50% CHEAPER THAN INDIVIDUAL COVER

COVER & LIMITS

- **Medical Malpractice** (including Unintentional Breach of Confidentiality) – *insurance to cover you for claims for bodily injury, mental injury, illness, disease or death of any patient caused by any negligent act, error or omission committed by you, or Good Samaritan Acts*
- **Public Liability** - *insurance to cover accidental bodily injury to third parties or accidental damage to third party property arising other than from the medical malpractice e.g. slips and trips, damaging medical equipment accidentally, even something as innocent as spilling a cup of coffee over someone*
- **Limits** - *are IN THE AGGREGATE any one period of Insurance including defence costs*
- **Geographical Limits & Court Jurisdiction** - Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man
- **Claims excess** - *excludes the first £500 of each and every claim*

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The insurance originally covered just the usual range of non-invasive Cardiac Physiologists/Echo Technician duties including: -

- Echo's & ECG's
- Heart & Blood Pressure monitoring including ambulatory
- Exercise/Treadmill Stress Testing

We subsequently announced that from 24th September 2010, the insurers agreed that members could optionally include **TWO types of INVASIVE PROCEDURES – SONOVUE CONTRAST ECHOS and DOBUTAMINE STRESS ECHOS** for an **extra 50%** premium for either or both together

Further GOOD NEWS from 1st April 2011 was that the insurers agreed to :-

- Include **Pacing Follow-Up** and **Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Follow-Up** **FREE OF CHARGE** under the non-invasive activities
- Offer an **OPTIONAL UPGRADE to £2m limit** on either the non-invasive or invasive activities - **DOUBLE THE LIMIT for only an extra 30% premium**

Then from renewal on 1st April 2013, under the **INVASIVE PROCEDURES**, the restriction of SONOVUE Contrast Echos was **widened to CONTRAST AGENT ECHOS**

From renewal on 1st April 2015, the scheme was withdrawn and replaced by the current Novae facility

ELIGIBILITY

The facility is available to **ACCREDITED & NON-ACCREDITED** members who are either **Individuals, Sole Traders** or **one-person Limited Companies** (provided the Ltd Company only employs you and that you are the only one undertaking the manual duties)

**** We can also cater for individuals or larger companies who fall outside the acceptance criteria of the facility, or who require higher limits or need cover for more invasive procedures ****

The cover is on a **CLAIMS MADE** basis meaning **claims must be brought during the policy period**, so you have cover in force at the time the incident occurred and at the time a claim is made

If you wish to stop the insurance at any time say due to you no longer needing the cover, although there is no refund you would still have had the comfort of cover up until the annual renewal date of your policy to allow for late claims to be reported

If you want the added comfort of a further **Extended Reported Period** after the renewal date, you can purchase a further 12 months cover at the expiring **ANNUAL** premium (but taking into account any rise in insurance premium tax) to allow for claims to be reported that arose from work you undertook in the past and whose circumstances arose during the original policy period or after the retroactive date shown on your insurance schedule

Cover operates whether you undertake **private work for the NHS or in the Private sector** and generally speaking they would expect you to have your own insurance when doing freelance work.

In some circumstances, whoever you undertake work for **MAY** cover you under their own insurance, but you could still be implicated personally in a claim or their insurers could seek a recovery from you of the costs paid, so the cover gives you the freedom to be able to offer your services safe in the knowledge that you have your own insurance to cover your freelance activities

Cover also operates as **contingency cover** whilst working **as a direct employee for the NHS** – although you would expect to be indemnified by the NHS, in certain circumstances they may pass the cost of legal action onto the employee so our scheme would cover you provided you are found negligent, other than for an intentional criminal act

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COVER & ANNUAL PREMIUMS

The cover being offered by Novae is identical to the old Marketform scheme cover

The premiums however are quite a lot higher as the previous rates were negotiated on the basis that several hundred members would want cover and that did not happen – indeed, Marketform were very patient and waited 5 years to see if there was a substantial increase in the take up of cover before they made the decision to withdraw the scheme

Below is a grid showing the new premiums - all include Insurance Premium Tax and a £40 broker administration fee

- **NON-INVASIVE** - includes Pacing Follow Up & ICD Follow Up
- **INVASIVE**- as above plus Contrast Agent & Dobutamine Stress Echos

Limit & Cover	Premium
£1m NON invasive	£ 880.00
£2m NON invasive	£1,048.00 instalments available
£1m INVASIVE	£1,272.00 instalments available
£2m INVASIVE	£1,406.40 instalments available

HOW TO APPLY

IT'S SIMPLE - full instructions on how to apply are shown on the **BSE WEBSITE** – www.bsecho.org

You may have to wait a few seconds for the FOCUS logo to appear then click on the "Read More" tab, and then onto the "Apply Here" tab

This includes a Summary of Cover, Proposal Form & Guidance Notes, Premium Options, Payment Method, Specimen Policy and our Terms of Business

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT US

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