**MESH Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| What is the group action about? | Wedlake Bell LLP is a law firm running the Mesh legal group action in England on behalf of over 330 women who claim that they have suffered ‘life-changing’ complications as a result of faulty surgical mesh implant. Please see link which explains this in more detail: <http://wedlakebell.com/group-actions.html>  The action is being supported by the action group, “Sling the Mesh” <https://slingthemesh.wordpress.com> who represent around 3000 women and families adversely affected by surgical meshes. If you have any non-legal questions relating to the campaign or medical treatment, please direct them to the Sling the Mesh campaign. |
| How can I join the group action? | You can join the group action by filling in a questionnaire, which can be found [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/MESH_QUESTIONNAIRE.doc), and returning it to Wedlake Bell via email at [mesh@wedlakebell.com](mailto:mesh@wedlakebell.com). Please use the guidance [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-to-the-Mesh-Questionnaire.docx) to assist you when answering the questions.  When sending us your questionnaire, please can you also confirm that you give your consent for us to include your name as part of the group claim. |
| I don't understand the questionnaire, please could you explain what the questions mean? | We have written some guidance to assist with answering the questionnaire. It can be found [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-to-the-Mesh-Questionnaire.docx). If you are still having difficulty please complete as much of the questionnaire as you can and we will contact you for any further information needed. |
| Is there a deadline for completing the questionnaire/joining the group action? | There is no deadline for completing the questionnaire. Although, the sooner you complete and return it to us the better. If you are missing some information you can always update us at a later date. |
| What do the terms SUI and POP mean? | SUI means stress urinary incontinence, namely the unintentional passing of urine which occurs at times when your bladder is under pressure, for example when you cough or laugh.  POP means Pelvic Organ Prolapse. This occurs when a pelvic organ, such as your bladder, uterus, vagina or bowel drops from its normal position and pushes against the walls of your vagina. |
| What are primary and secondary operations? | Primary operation means the first operation that you underwent involving mesh.  Secondary operation refers to any further operation to either repair or remove the mesh. |
| What are the next steps? | We have received a high level of interest in the claim and have made very good progress so far. We have appointed a very well qualified and highly experienced expert urogynecologist to prepare a report for us and the country's leading medical group claims QC to coordinate the legal process. We are also meeting with various other people so that we can make a start on getting funding to bring the claim. |
| How will the action be funded? | For your information, we are presently talking to a number of third party funders but we confirm that so far as you are concerned it will be on a no win, no fee basis. If the third party funders agree to back the litigation then we imagine they will want to do so on the basis of a percentage of the likely compensation pot. In the United States the compensation paid by the manufacturer has run into hundreds of millions of dollars so it may be that the total percentage is very small, depending on how may claims we bring. |
| My mesh operation was more than 10 years ago. Can I still join the group action? | Unfortunately, there is a ten year long stop on bringing a product liability claim, starting from the date that the specific batch of products was placed into circulation.  However, we are considering ways that the limitation period can be extended, as well as the potential for bringing clinical negligence claims. So we suggest that you complete the questionnaire (found [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/MESH_QUESTIONNAIRE.doc)) and return to [mesh@wedlakebell.com](mailto:mesh@wedlakebell.com) while we continue to analyse the position. We will keep you updated as the action develops. |
| Will you be dealing with SUI claims as well as POP claims? | We are currently considering both SUI and POP claims for the group action. For updates on the progress of the action please email [mesh@wedlakebell.com](mailto:mesh@wedlakebell.com) to be added to the mailing list if you have not already done so. |
| Will you be including claims relating to mesh inserted laparoscopically? | Since we have not yet applied for a Group Litigation Order, we have not made a final decision as to which claims will be included. However, we are currently considering information in respect of many different ways that mesh was inserted. We would therefore encourage you to complete the questionnaire (found [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/MESH_QUESTIONNAIRE.doc)) and return it via email to [mesh@wedlakebell.com](mailto:mesh@wedlakebell.com). We will add you to our mailing list and keep you updated with our progress. |
| Will you be including claims relating to manufacturers other than Johnson & Johnson? | We are currently considering information in respect of all manufacturers. We would therefore encourage you to complete the questionnaire (found [here](http://wedlakebell.com/wp-content/uploads/MESH_QUESTIONNAIRE.doc)) and return it via email to [mesh@wedlakebell.com](mailto:mesh@wedlakebell.com). We will add you to our mailing list and keep you updated with our progress. |
| Will you be dealing with claims from people who have had operation outside of England and Wales? | Our primary focus is upon the proposed action against Johnson and Johnson and other manufacturers. We are considering pursuing a number of different manufacturers and not just those in the UK. Therefore even if you have had an operation outside of the UK, we would like to receive your questionnaire. We cannot say at this stage whether you will be able to join our group action. All other members of our group had their procedures in the UK but in a product liability case it seems to us that that should not be determinative.  Unfortunately, we cannot pursue actions against surgeons or hospitals outside of England and Wales as they do not fall under the same legal jurisdiction. |
| Can men join the group action? | Unfortunately claims by men currently fall outside the scope of the present claim. |
| How can women get access to their medical records and other medical information? | We understand that obtaining medical records can be difficult. We suggest that you contact your GP, the hospital at which you underwent the operation involving mesh, and failing that, the secretary of the consultant who performed the mesh operation.  You have a legal right to apply for access to your medical records, but you may have to pay a fee. You do not however need to give a reason for your request.  We can also apply for the records on your behalf provided that you authorise us to do so. |
| Can we assist with recommending surgeons or hospitals for further treatment? | Wedlake Bell is a law firm running the Mesh legal action. We are unable to provide information, recommendations or assistance relating to medical matters as they are beyond our expertise. If you have any medical queries please direct them to the Sling the Mesh campaign at <https://slingthemesh.wordpress.com>. |
| Can Wedlake Bell assist me with an action against my surgeon for negligence? | Our primary focus is upon the proposed action against manufacturers, however we will be considering actions against surgeons or NHS Hospitals |
| Can Wedlake Bell assist me with an action against the treating hospital for negligence | Our primary focus is upon the proposed action against manufacturers, however we will in due course be considering actions against surgeons or NHS Hospitals |