

## Coffee Talk: A Health Industry Seminar Series – Index 2009





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# Leasing Space: The Do's and Don'ts

David Holmes and Karima Kanani January 21, 2009

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### **AGENDA**

- Regulatory approvals
- Key leasing issues for landlords
- Lease vs. License
- Key leasing issues for tenants













- Who must seek regulatory approval?
  - Hospitals must seek approval to lease as landlord or tenant under the *Public Hospitals Act*
  - FHTs are <u>not</u> subject to regulatory approval requirement
    - <u>but</u> may need MOHLTC approval to obtain funding
  - Similarly, Health Service Providers may need LHIN funding approval
  - Other healthcare organizations may be subject to specific regulatory regimes
    - e.g. Residential Tenancies Act (Care Homes), Long-Term Care Homes legislation (Nursing Homes)













- Process for Public Hospitals Act approval:
  - Approvals triggered under the *Public Hospitals Act* require Minister approval from the delegated ADM
  - Approvals are obtained pursuant to a process now involving the LHIN, LHIN Liaison Branch, and the Ministry
  - Any proposal from a Hospital as lessee or lessor must be submitted to the LHIN for review <u>before</u> approval from the Minister can be obtained













- Hospital as Tenant
  - Section 4(2) of the *Public Hospitals Act* provides: "no institution, building or other premises or place shall be operated or used for the purposes of a hospital unless the Minister has approved the operation or use of the premises or place for that purpose."
  - So, if leasing <u>for purposes of a public hospital</u> then approval required
  - Approval <u>not</u> required for satellite locations/premises not approved for use as a Public Hospital (i.e., separately operated)
    - e.g. community mental health programs doctor office space Supportive Housing













- Hospital as Landlord
  - When space used for the purposes of a public hospital is leased to a third party Minister approval is required
  - Section 4(4) of the *Public Hospitals Act* provides: "no land, building, other premises or place or part thereof acquired or used for the purposes of a hospital shall be sold, <u>leased</u>, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the approval of the Minister."
  - In our experience hospitals may license space in the hospital without having to obtain approval













## KEY LEASING ISSUES -LANDLORDS

- What does the Hospital "own"?
  - Land and Buildings: rights to lease (subject to regulatory requirements)
  - Building only: rights to sublease (subject to regulatory requirements and ground lease
- Lease vs. License?
  - Key differences







### LEASE VS LICENSE







#### A Lease:

- Creates a property interest that includes the right for the Tenant entity to possess the property
- Relationship of Landlord and Tenant created
- The Commercial Tenancies Act of Ontario applies (in most instances)















#### A License:

- Constitutes a contractual right to do something on a property, i.e. occupy; use
- Relationship of Landlord and Tenant not created
- No statutory protections provided to parties
- Usually terminable on limited notice













# KEY LEASING ISSUES - TENANTS

- Offer to Lease
  - The "starting point"
- Lease Provisions
  - Term of Lease
  - Amount of Rent Basic/Minimum;
    Additional
  - What constitutes "Additional Rent"









Lease Provisions (cont'd):



Maintenance and repair obligations



Right to Extend Term

- Right to Terminate Lease Early
  - Loss of Ministry Funding
  - Loss of Designation under Public Hospitals Act













## KEY LEASING ISSUES – TENANTS

- Lease Provisions (cont'd)
  - Damage and Destruction
  - Assignment and Subletting Provisions
    - Subleases and Ongoing obligations
    - Licensing Rights







#### **CLOSING REMARKS**







- Be aware that approvals may or may not be required depending on who you are and what you use the space for
- When approvals are required, plan ahead they will take time to acquire!
- Leases are often presented as standard documents <u>but</u> from a risk management perspective there are key areas for negotiation whether as tenant or landlord













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