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Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon: Negotiating Technology Purchase and Service Arrangements









Coffee Talk: A Miller Thomson LLP Health Industry Seminar Series

Karima Kanani February 20, 2008

MILLER THOMSON LLP

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Road Map





1. Joint Purchasing



2. Hidden Dragons

- 3. Operational Reality
- 4. Take Home Message



Joint Purchasing







- Healthcare institutions and professionals are increasingly working together in many areas, including procurement
 - -Alliances
 - -Networks
 - -Consortiums



Joint Purchasing







 Healthcare institutions and professionals are also aligning due to healthcare restructuring

E.g. - Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Family Health Teams (FHT)



Joint Purchasing







- Establish agreements that set out the contributions, obligations and authority of the members of your purchasing group
- May need flexibility in form of procurement contract based on structure of purchasing group



Hidden Dragons







Can they sell/license to you?



When are you being asked to pay?

- Can the technology and service be severed?
- What are the service standards?
- Are there limits on liability?
- What law and jurisdiction govern the agreement?



Operational Reality







- The Letter of the Law
- Practice and Policy
- Accountability









Operational Reality The Letter of the Law

Your contractual interests may be driven by regulatory requirements

E.g. Privacy









Operational Reality Practice and Policy

- Look for contract language to match
 - best practices; and
 - internal policy and protocols

E.g. Clinical acceptance testing







Technical Acceptance



- Meets published specifications
- Clinical Acceptance*
 - -Follows technical acceptance
 - Use w/patients validated by senior member of medical staff
- Both technical and clinical needed for final acceptance



Operational Reality Accountability







- Accountability to the Ministry of Health/LHIN for management of funds
- Match contractual responsibility and accountability



The Take Home Message







- Define relationship of your purchasing group before you begin procurement process
- Be live to areas for risk management negotiation
- Anticipate terms and conditions dictated by the law
- Build the practice reality into the business deal
- Responsibility = Accountability



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