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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

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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



Who are you buying from?



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









Practice and Policy 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



Karima Kanani

T: 416.595.7908

F: 416.595.8695

kkanani@millerthomson.com

Karima Kanani is dedicated corporate counsel in the Health Industry Practice Group at Miller Thomson LLP, Toronto, Ontario