



# **POLICE REFERRALS TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

## **Guidance for Sheffield GPs**

There is both a local and national agreement that the police should not send patients to their GP for the purpose of reporting injuries with a view to having them documented in case of future prosecution. However, from time to time the LMC office receives examples of doctors being asked to complete such reports.

The LMC advice remains the same - it is not the role of GPs to perform examinations for the purposes of medico- legal or court reports under their National Health Service contracts.

A GP is perfectly entitled to refuse to undertake such examinations and direct either the patient or the police officer to have the injuries documented by the police (with photographs) or to contact the local police surgeons.

If, however, a patient has been examined following an assault and the evidence does happen to be in the GP's notes, then the police can ask for a statement to be released with the patient's consent. These statements can be charged for and the practice paid.

Obviously, a GP has an obligation to provide the necessary medical treatment and advice for an injury sustained by a patient, under their terms and conditions. This is an entirely different situation to the use of an examination as evidence.

The LMC office has always acted on examples of variation in this policy and would be happy to liaise with South Yorkshire Police if practices do encounter problems. Please inform the LMC office of any problems via email to [administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sheffieldlmc.org.uk).