



Cleveland Local Medical Committee

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LETTERS/STD/PAYMENTS FOR LETTERS/REPORTS/CERTS

Date:.....

Dear Sir / Madam,

Requests for letters and forms outwith GP NHS responsibilities

For many years Cleveland LMC has maintained a policy on requests for letters/reports/certification which was widely circulated among GPs. Our policy has not changed and is that GPs should not issue letters, reports or certificates which are not required as part of their NHS responsibilities.

This Teeswide policy is in accord with reports from the Government and is supported by the policy set out by the Cabinet Office in 2002 which addressed reducing the unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic burdens placed on GPs. This Cabinet Office policy can be viewed on the Department of Health website.

A GP is entitled to charge a patient whatever they deem appropriate for letters/reports/certificates which are not part of their NHS responsibilities. NHS GPs do not relish the prospect of charging patients, however, if you insist you require such a document you will be requested to pay the practice's current professional fee for a private medical letter/report/certificate.

If the request for a letter/report/certificate has been made to you by a third party please refer them to this letter and the LMC who will be happy to explain and reiterate this policy.

We regret if this policy causes inconvenience to you, but it is important to ensure that all front-line health professionals concentrate on providing high quality health services to answer their patients' needs and this can only be achieved by ensuring the appropriate use of the General Practitioner services.

Yours faithfully

Dr J T Canning
Secretary