



FOSTER PARENT MEDICAL REPORTS/EXAMINATIONS

Guidance for Sheffield GPs

Following discussions with Sheffield Family Placement Services, the LMC has produced this guidance to clarify the involvement of GPs in the process of obtaining foster parent medical reports and examinations.

- Completion of foster parent medical reports/examinations is not part of the NHS and, therefore, GPs have no obligation to perform this work. However, the LMC is keen to assist GPs and Sheffield Family Placement Services in streamlining the process, in order to encourage more GPs to engage in the process.
- There are 3 different communications sent to GPs by Sheffield Family Placement Services:
 1. **Prospective foster carers** are required to have a full fostering medical examination, involving completion of Form AH Adult Health Report.
 2. **Approved foster carers** are required to have further full fostering medical examinations, involving completion of Form AH Adult Health Report every 4 years, with the first of these commencing 4 years after the date of the prospective foster carers medical.
 3. **Approved foster carers** are required to have interim update medicals, involving completion of the AH2 Update Adult Health Report every 4 years, with the first of these commencing 2 years after the date of the prospective foster carers medical.
- GPs are requested to complete Part C, sections 1-11 of Form AH Adult Health Report and Part C, sections 1 to 4 of AH2 Update Adult Health Report. These are nationally produced forms, therefore, it is not possible to negotiate a local alternative.
- If a GP wishes to discuss any issues arising from the medical examination or report, the Medical Adviser named in Part A of the form can be contacted. For other non clinical queries, the GP can contact the Business Support Officer allocated to the case, whose details will be on the letter sent to the GP.
- GPs carrying out this work are entitled to charge a fee, payable by Sheffield Family Placement Services. Fees for this work have not been agreed since 2005 and are no longer set nationally. Therefore, the BMA advises individual doctors and GP practices to establish and agree their own fees in advance of undertaking the work. Further guidance for doctors on setting their own fees can be found on the BMA website:
<http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/pay-fees-allowances/fees/organising-your-finances>