

Requests for Housing Medical Reports & References

Sheffield
LMC



GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs

September 2019

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL (SCC) REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL REPORTS

Following communications with Die Green, Health and Housing Team Manager, Care and Support Services at SCC regarding requests for medical reports from GPs, agreement has been reached between the LMC and SCC that patients will **not** be asked to obtain medical evidence to support their medical re-housing applications.

In circumstances where a medical report is necessary, SCC will write directly to the GP enclosing the patient's written consent.

As this work is not part of a GP's contract of employment or terms and conditions of service, and is not part of the NHS, GPs are entitled to charge a fee (fees are no longer set by the DDRB - the last DDRB set fee was £25.15 in 2005/06). An invoice should be forwarded to SCC with the medical report. It is not possible for payment to be made in advance.

SCC REHOUSING SERVICES REQUESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Following communications with Rachel Marston, Registration Team Manager, Rehousing Services, it has been agreed that GPs will no longer be asked to provide professional references for rehousing purposes.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL REPORTS

Provision of medical reports for re-housing purposes at the request of Housing Associations is not part of a GP's contract of employment or terms and conditions of service and is not part of the NHS. As such, GPs are not obliged to provide such reports and many practices have adopted a policy of not doing so. This should in no way be interpreted as indicating that a GP would or would not support a patient's application.

If a GP agrees to issue a report, as this is not part of the NHS, they are entitled to charge a fee. It is the responsibility of the Housing Association or the patient concerned to meet the GP's fee and, unless this fee is paid, the GP is perfectly entitled to refuse to provide such a report.

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If practices encounter difficulties with regard to any of the above, please forward details to the LMC office via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.