

# Foster Parent Medical Reports / Examinations

Sheffield  
LMC



## GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs

April 2020

Following discussions with Sheffield Family Placement Services, in 2009 we produced guidance to clarify the involvement of GPs in the process of obtaining foster parent medical reports and examinations. We became aware of a number of changes and, as such, have agreed revised guidance with Sheffield City Council (SCC).

Completion of foster carer medical reports / examinations is not part of the NHS and, therefore, GPs have no obligation to perform this work. However, in order to be able to approve a foster carer there is a requirement under Fostering Service Regulations that a medical (of fostering applicants) is undertaken. We are keen to assist GPs and SCC in streamlining the process, in order to encourage more GPs to engage in the process.

There are 3 different communications sent to GPs:

1. **Prospective foster carers** are required to have a full fostering medical examination, involving completion of Form AH Adult Health Report. GPs are requested to complete Part C, sections 1-11.
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. Again, GPs are requested to complete Part C, sections 1-11.
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 asked to complete Part C, sections 1-4.

Forms AH Adult Health Report and AH2 Update Adult Health Report 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 SCC. 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. SCC has stated that the average costs of prospective foster carer medicals / full (approved) carer medicals are charged at £73.86, with interim medicals being charged at £24.36. Further guidance for doctors on setting their own fees can be found on the BMA website:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/fees#setting-your-own-fees>.

Further information about fostering arrangements can be accessed via the SCC website at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/fostering>.