



Avon Local Medical Committee Limited

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To Whom It May Concern

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Children's School Absence – GP letters

Avon LMC is the representative body recognised by law for GPs and their Practices in the Avon area. This letter has been produced by the LMC for use by GP Practices.

The job of GPs is to provide medical care to their patients and they are not in a position to administer or to police child absenteeism from schools. It is inappropriate for GPs to be asked for letters in relation to child absenteeism and provide medical evidence of the reason for absenteeism from school and there are clear procedures and regulations that relate to the issue of certificates.

GPs are neither contracted nor resourced by the NHS to provide this service and do not have the capacity to do so. Time taken up with paperwork is time taken away from direct patient care.

It is not possible for a GP to issue a retrospective certificate without having seen the child involved at the time of the illness. As a result, the profession maintains that such sporadic absences are most appropriately served by a self-certification system from parents. If schools require further information, then this becomes a report or document for which a charge can be raised by the doctor.

Please show this document to whoever has asked you to get a GP letter. If they require medical information, they should write directly to your GP for this for which they may be entitled to charge, provided of course that you give your consent. They can contact the LMC if they require further information.

Yours sincerely

Philip Kirby
Chief Executive