



To Whom It May Concern

Benefits and Housing – GP letters

North and South Essex Local Medical Committees (LMCs) are the bodies recognised by law as representative of all NHS GPs in Essex. This letter has been produced by the LMCs for use by their constituent GP practices.

The job of GPs is to provide medical care to their patients and they are not in a position to administer, nor to police, the benefits system. It is not appropriate for GPs to be asked for letters of support or letters to confirm care needs. 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.

There are contractual and agreed methods for GPs to provide medical information to the Department for Work and Pensions, Local Authorities and to other agencies. These are sent to the GP practice and GPs respond directly to such requests for information. Therefore your GP cannot respond to your request for a letter.

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, provided of course that you give your consent. They can contact the LMC if they require further clarification.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brian Balmer
Chief Executive