

Chief Executive NHS trust

Dear (Chief Executive)

Re; Medical Certification

One of my patients attended my surgery specifically to obtain a Med 3 certificate, having been (seen recently in out patients / discharged from your hospital) with no certificate to cover the expected recuperation period. The patient was advised by hospital staff to consult me immediately in order to obtain the required certificate. This is of course inconvenient for the patient.

I would also draw your attention to the document '**Making a difference - reducing GP paperwork.**'

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/documents/pst/pdf/redgppaper.pdf>

The executive summary, on page 7 of the web version, clearly states that unnecessary GP input has been, or is being, removed in a number of areas. Number one on their list, with a target date of July 2001, was;

"Sick certification will be integrated into the hospital discharge process so that hospital doctors and consultants will not refer patients to a GP solely for the purpose of obtaining a sickness certificate."

Hospital doctors are therefore obliged to provide patients with an adequate certificate to cover the expected period of disability.

This is a recurrent problem and I would be most grateful if you would inform your staff of their obligations in this respect.

If the patient develops unexpected complications that necessitate a GP consultation, then it is appropriate for the GP to provide any additional certification that is required. Similarly, if the patient's recovery is delayed beyond the expected period, the GP would be obliged to provide further certification.

I would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr