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## Requests to "View a Body"

Thank you to the Practice who raised this with us. They received a request from a local undertaker for a GP to view the body of a patient who was taken to them by a SAS paramedic. The SAS paramedic had verified death, but the undertaker wished a GP to view the body.

In Annex C of the letter from the Scottish Government dated 11th May 2015 it states that "There is no requirement to see the body of the deceased unless death has not been verified by someone else."

Our view is that there is no requirement for the GP to be called to view the deceased, as confirmed in the CMO letter, and that the SAS paramedic verifying death should be acceptable to the undertaker.

Please let us know if you receive any requests of this type.

## Meeting between LMC Office Bearers and Mental Health

We recently had an informal meeting with representatives from the Mental Health Joint Clinical Improvement Board to try and discuss issues practices had been emailing us about. They are keen to sort any issues and be made aware of any on-going problems and so we would encourage you to continue to notify us of problems you encounter.

One thing they wanted to remind GPs of was that for adult ADHD and autism, CHMTs can only accept referrals if there is clear documentation to demonstrate not only symptoms but also significant impairment in functioning owing to the symptoms.

## Private Prescribing Services

There are a number of online services where you can get meds prescribed by a doctor, and many of these services are based in England.

These are "private consultations" and as a result of this the patient can be issued with a private script, in many cases for brand medications. The first the Practice can be aware of this is when they receive a letter informing them the prescription has been issued, this letter can take up to 6 weeks to arrive.

## Emergency Department Senior Doctors Phone

As most of you will be aware, the senior doctor in the Emergency Department carries a mobile phone for EM related advice and referrals. Although this is well used, they are reporting that they still get quite a number of such calls coming in via switchboard which will mean unnecessary delays for GPs.

We have been asked to remind you that the number to call is 07740 937051

## Gym Medicals

Once again we have had queries from practices re a Gym telling patients to get a note from/clarification from their GP that it is "okay for them to join their Gym." We have written to the Gym concerned advising them that this is not GMS work and so the GP does not have to do this but if they do they can charge. Not surprisingly they have responded that this is a matter for the GP and the patient to agree upon.

We would caution you to ensure that any kind of assessment you make is well within your competency and as cases of litigation rise, opinions of "fitness for..." may be a legal mine-field