PATIENT INFORMATION – POWER OF ATTORNEY REQUESTS

You have contacted us regarding your proposed Power of Attorney. We firmly believe as a practice that it is a good idea for people to arrange a POA, and in particular would encourage people to take this up early whilst they are still competent to do so.

The Scottish Government has growing concerns about increasing demands on GP appointments and has launched a national campaign called the Primary Care Improvement Plan. The key aim of this plan is to free up GP appointments by directing patients to other sources of information support and treatment and are also nationally looking to recruit other professionals like pharmacists, advanced nurses, paramedics and community link workers to help achieve this.

Whilst GP practices reserve the right to supplement their income with private non-NHS work, we as a practice, feel it is important that we reserve the precious resource of GP appointment time for those NHS activities that our patients require for their health that only a GP can do. The Office of the Public Guardian official guide to the Certificate of Capacity urges people to *“Prior to approaching your doctor you might want to check their willingness to undertake the necessary interview assessment and certification step.”* As such we would normally direct patients to other services that meet their requirements and in almost all cases that would be for them to shop around for a solicitor who was willing to complete the Certificate of Capacity for them.

There will be people who unfortunately it is clear to the solicitor or the family, that the applicant are unable to meet the requirements of understanding the POA process and they should normally be directed to a relevant social work team to consider application for a guardianship order.

That will leave a small number of applicants who there is a reasonable doubt about their competence and in those cases we would consider an approach for a private examination and professional opinion on the application, but in these cases we would charge our usual professional fee for these services.

The Green Medical Practice

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