

# SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

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Home Manager

Nursing Home

Date

Dear

Re: Non-Prescription Drug Usage

I refer to your letter to the practice dated .....

You have requested that we sign a form confirming the acceptability of your nursing staff administering a list of over-the-counter treatments to your patients. Whilst the treatments listed are all perfectly reasonable, it is not the policy of our practice to sign these forms. Our NHS contractual and professional responsibilities are to treat our patients when they are ill and to manage their chronic conditions. We would expect your nurses to use a combination of their professional judgement and common sense when administering non-prescription medicines but as we cannot be held responsible for their decisions it is not appropriate for us to sign a form which could potentially indemnify your staff for any adverse outcomes of their actions whilst putting ourselves at possible medico-legal risk.

As I have stated above, our obligations are to treat our individual patients. If you require any services which relate to the administration and management functions of your establishment rather than to the care of individual patients then these need to be procured outside of the NHS.

I trust this clarifies our position. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

