



Northern Lincolnshire and Goole

NHS Foundation Trust

Duty of care regarding communication of investigation results

The General Practitioners Committee and the Consultant Committee have issued a joint statement on hospital test results.

This is a long awaited national statement which supports the work the LMC has been doing at local level in partnership with HEYT and NLaG to resolve these issues:

Duty of care regarding communication of investigation results

“We are aware that in some areas, some hospital doctors have been instructing GPs to find out the test results which the hospital had ordered.

Both the General Practitioner Committee and the Consultants Committee of the BMA agree this practice is potentially unsafe, and that the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that results are acted upon, rests with the person requesting the test.

That responsibility can only be delegated to someone else if they accept by prior agreement. Handover of responsibility has to be a joint consensual decision between hospital team and GP. If the GP hasn't accepted that role, the person requesting the test must retain responsibility.”

This advice is in line with both National Patient Safety Agency guidance and the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations.



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