

If a primary health care practitioner refers a patient to you for treatment you will need to report back to them on how the treatment is progressing.

You will also need to report any sudden changes in condition, especially if the treatment reverses from steady improvement and progress into deterioration and worsening of the initial presenting condition.

Writing progress letters to primary health practitioners not only enhances client care but also helps us establish professional credibility within the medical community.

6 October 2012

Dr Who
Family Practice
12 Wellness Drive
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Dr Who

History of treatment – how long, original presenting problem

I have been treating Mr Leven on a regular basis since June 1998 as part of his chronic pain management programme. On my advice, Mr Leven consulted his podiatrist on the 28 September and was given a 3mm heel lift to correct a structurally short left leg.

Patient's subjective assessment

He has since reported an acute increase in back pain, contralateral to the chronic pain sites associated with his spinal fusion. He is experiencing severe pain through the right buttock and down the right leg.

Results of any objective testing (range of motion, orthopaedic tests, observations)

Straight leg raise is 60° bilaterally with pain in the buttock when the right leg is at 60°.

Changes in condition – improvements or deterioration.

Increase in pain relief medication? Further functional impairment? New symptoms

Symptom relief for this acute pain has been minimal with Mr Leven reporting a maximum of two days respite after remedial massage treatment. He has been taking oral anti-inflammatories and Panadeine Forte since onset. Prior to this acute episode, however, his need for oral pain relief was minimal.

Reason for referring back to doctor or reporting on condition.

Given the severity of this acute episode, I have suspended treatment until you have assessed Mr Leven.

Yours sincerely,



Samuel Clemens