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Dr John Galuszka
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Dear Dr Galuszka

I am sorry that it has taken so long to reply to your letter about sickness certification. I am very aware of the issue and fully share your interpretation of the guidance and your view of the importance of the ORH providing the relevant sickness certification on discharge.

Recognising the importance of the issue, I know that both James Morris and Elaine Strachan-Hall (the Director of Nursing) have written to doctors, senior nurses and ward secretaries to remind them of the importance of this task. This has clearly not produced the required effect.

I have therefore asked the Medical Director definitively to resolve this problem and I know that he has already started discussions with our discharge coordinators about a more systematic and effective approach to the creation of discharge documentation, to ensure that appropriate certification is provided. He is also looking at the model used by other hospitals, such as RBBH, that are more consistently successful in providing sickness certification.

He has asked me to let you know that it would be helpful for him to know of clinical areas that are particularly delinquent in this respect, so that he can target his efforts on areas that are likely to provide the greatest immediate benefit. I know that James would also be very happy to meet with you to discuss the problem and the actions being taken to resolve it, if you think that would be helpful.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Trevor Campbell Davis
Chief Executive