

Ref: CMT-AD-71-2020

Date: 18/06/2020

Memo to service directors, area managers, chairs of foster care committees

Re: Foster carer medical appointments during COVID-19

Dear Colleagues

It has come to our attention that as part of the fostering review process some areas are struggling to obtain full medicals for foster carers, due to pressures on GP surgeries in some areas during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to this the Crisis Management Team permits the use of a health declaration for this period in the event that a full medical is not available. In all instances, it is important that a medical appointment and attendant report be sought. A health declaration should only be used when this cannot be provided.

We understand that in some instances GP surgeries are providing full medicals to patients remotely. Once these medicals are signed off by a GP, they will be considered acceptable and in accordance with the medical review requirement.

Where GP surgeries can provide services such as medical reviews, we request that prioritisation be given to ensuring that full medicals are sought to evidence a complete foster care review.

This measure is being put in place to provide a mechanism for fostering teams to progress foster care reviews within the required timeframe, as detailed in Standard 17 of the National Standards for Foster Carers. This will also ensure that we can continue to use our existing foster carers during this period.

Crisis Management Team

Tusla

18th June 2020

Appendix 2: Foster carer health declaration template

I / we continue to foster during the public health crisis, COVID-19. We declare that there are no reasons that we have not shared with the fostering link social worker that we are aware of related to our physical and mental health that would preclude us from providing foster care to a child.

Signatures: *(can be in electronic format)*

Applicant 1 name: _____

Applicant 2 name: _____

Fostering link social worker name: _____

Date: _____