



Home Office Medical Consent Forms

Recently, [Asylum Matters](#) and [Doctors of the World UK](#) have been made aware of the Home Office contacting asylum seekers and asking them to sign a consent form that would give the Home Office access to their personal medical records.

What is a medical consent form?

The form and accompanying letter asks for the individual asylum seeker to sign and give consent for their doctor to disclose details of the individual's (and their dependants') medical history to an officer of the Home Office. The details could include confirmation of medical condition, medication being taken and any special conditions.

Any information obtained may then be used to inform decisions taken on an individual's case, including how to progress removal from the UK if an application for asylum is unsuccessful.

What should you do if you receive these letters?

It is important to know that asylum seekers **do not have to give consent for the Home Office to access their medical records if they don't want to.** This is stated on the medical consent form, but is not explained in the accompanying letter.

If they do not want to give consent for the Home Office to access their medical information, **their solicitor can help them to provide medical evidence when it is requested by the Home Office.**

If they do not have a solicitor, **they can ask their GP for specific information directly or ask a support agency to help them obtain it, when it is requested by the Home Office.**

If an individual asylum seeker commits to providing some medical information to the Home Office (either through their solicitor, by themselves, or with the support of a support agency) **it is very important that they do so, otherwise it could be held against them.**

[Asylum Matters](#) and [Doctors of the World UK](#) would be interested to know more about the use of medical consent forms by the Home Office.

If you or your clients receive a letter requesting medical consent – or if you have any questions about the practice – please contact:

Anna Miller at Doctors of the World UK (amiller@doctorsoftheworld.org.uk) and/or
Lorna Gledhill at Asylum Matters (lorna@asylummatters.org)