**Letter template for rejecting sedative requests for patients.**

Dear X

**RE: MRI Sedation request**

We are writing in response to your request for the GP to prescribe sedation for patients attending hospital for imaging investigations. Unfortunately, we must decline this offer to prescribe due to the following reasons:

* GPs are not regularly involved, skilled, trained or appraised in sedation skills.
* All hospital consultants, both those requesting imaging and those providing it, have access to the same prescribing abilities as GPs. If a patient needs a certain medication to enable an investigation to go ahead, they are just as well positioned to provide a prescription, either through the hospital pharmacy or a hospital FP10.
* Sedated patients should be regularly monitored, and I have been made aware of a case where a GP-provided sedative was given, the patient not monitored, and subsequently had a respiratory arrest in an MRI machine.
* The Royal College of Radiologists‘ own guidelines on sedation for imaging makes no mention of GP involvement or provision of low dose anxiolytics and stresses the importance of experienced well trained staff involved and the monitoring of sedated patients:  [*Sedation, analgesia and anaesthesia in the radiology department, Second edition | The Royal College of Radiologists (rcr.ac.uk)*](https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/sedation-analgesia-and-anaesthesia-in-the-radiology-department-second-edition/)

We are not being 'obstructive’ but adhering to our duty of care to provide safe, consistent, and appropriate care for our patients. We have the full support of our statutory representative body, Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs, in this position.

This has also been discussed with the Trust and with the directorate manager who has confirmed that a Sedation Policy is in place should be adhered to.

Yours sincerely,