[Practice Name]
[Practice Address]
[City, Postcode]
[Email Address]
[Date]

[Recipient Name]
[Department]
[Hospital Name]
[Hospital Address]

Dear [Recipient Name],

Re: Request for Sedation Prior to Radiological Investigation

We have received your request for sedation to be provided by our practice ahead of a radiological investigation, such as an MRI scan, for [Patient Name, DOB]. While we appreciate the need for ensuring patient comfort during such procedures, general practice is not the appropriate setting for prescribing or administering sedation in these circumstances.

There are several reasons why sedation should be managed within secondary care:

1. **Clinical Safety and Monitoring** – Sedation requires appropriate pre-assessment, administration, and post-procedural monitoring, which should be undertaken in a controlled environment by clinicians with expertise in sedation protocols. General practice is not equipped to provide the necessary facilities or personnel for safe administration and monitoring of sedative agents.
2. **Medicolegal Considerations** – Prescribing sedation without direct oversight of the procedure carries significant clinical and legal risks. As GPs, we are not in a position to ensure the appropriateness of sedation for a specific procedure, nor can we provide emergency management should complications arise.
3. **NHS Service Guidance** – National guidance, including recommendations from the General Medical Council (GMC) and British National Formulary (BNF), states that sedation for diagnostic procedures should be managed by the clinical team conducting the procedure. It is the responsibility of the secondary care provider to determine the suitability of sedation, prescribe it, and ensure its safe administration.
4. **Resource Constraints** – General practice is already under significant pressure with workload demands, and it is not sustainable for practices to take on responsibilities that rightly sit with secondary care services. Expecting GPs to provide sedation in this way places undue strain on primary care and risks detracting from essential patient services.

Given these considerations, we must respectfully decline this request and recommend that sedation is arranged within the hospital setting where appropriate protocols and monitoring can be followed. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and encourage collaboration to ensure the best care for our shared patients.

If there are alternative approaches to support the patient through the procedure without sedation, we are happy to discuss these where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

[GP Name]
[Practice Name]