

Case 17 – Ricky

Ricky, who appears well, is requesting a note saying he is too sick to write an examination tomorrow.

Best Practice Response

Material facts

- The relevant facts are:
 - Ricky has requested a note from his doctor to say that he is sick.
 - Ricky actually appears well.

Ethical considerations and medico-legal issues

- The doctor's code of conduct requires doctors to be honest and not misleading when writing reports and certificates, and only signing documents that you believe to be accurate. The code of conduct also requires you to take reasonable steps to verify the content before you sign a report or certificate, and not omitting relevant information deliberately.

MDA's recommendations

- Be wary of writing a sickness certificate if there are no supporting clinical findings.

Links to resources:

<http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Policies/Code-of-conduct.aspx>

Sickness certificates - Good Practice - 2015.pdf