

General Guidance for "Case of the Quarter"

The idea behind a "case of the quarter" is to give the opportunity for THOR-gP and THOR reporters to share information which they have gathered with their peers and colleagues.

At the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) at the University of Manchester we receive very brief summaries of the cases reported to us by means of the web form. However, we are asked by reporters whether or not we wish to receive further details (beyond that required for reporting) about cases or topics of interest. In this respect we are very grateful to hear from scheme reporters, as you are likely to have different views which may reflect the interests of your colleagues more closely than ours do at the COEH.

An interesting case may reflect a "new" occupational exposure (to physical, chemical, biological, or psychological factors), problems relating to a "new" industry or workplace, or a resurgence of an old problem due to changing conditions and circumstances. A reporter may also see a group of cases which (s)/he feels would be of interest to colleagues, especially if workplace factors play a significant part in development of the case.

If you have seen a case which you feel may be a potential "case of the quarter", we would ask you to summarise the information in about 250 words and send this to THOR-gP at the COEH. Important factors which we have to take into account include data protection, consent issues and ethical considerations, so we need you to obtain the patient's consent to allow release of information before sending your "case of the quarter" to THOR-gP. In addition, it is prudent to try to minimise the amount of personal data you provide (i.e. that which would allow identification of an individual), if at all possible.

When we receive reports we check that patient consent has been obtained to use the information as a "case of the quarter" and we may also take further steps to try to anonymise the data we have been given.

On a personal level, you may wish to consider whether publication of your "case of the quarter" constitutes part of your continuing professional development and, for example, could be included in your revalidation or appraisal records.

Please submit your "case of the quarter" to the COEH, or feel free to contact us to further discuss a case which you feel would be of interest to your colleagues. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your co-operation.

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<http://www.population-health.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/research/thorgp/>