



DR S VIRMANI & DR G BEDI

REQUESTS FOR SICKNOTES [MED3]

INFORMATION FROM THE PRACTICE

We have been contacted by several patients requesting sick notes for their employers as they have to self-isolate due to the Covid-19 virus situation. The Government's rules around issuing a sick note (Med3) are that a medical professional can only issue a Med3 when an individual has had more than seven continuous calendar days off sick due to an illness (including weekends).

For any period of illness less than seven days, you are able to complete a **self-certification certificate** and provide this to your employer. These are available via the Gov.UK website. *In the unlikely event that your employer does not accept a self-certification then your doctor may be able to issue a private sick note for which you may get charged.*

In light of the current Coronavirus situation, it is inevitable that a number of employees may be required to quarantine themselves at home even in the absence of any symptoms of an illness. In these cases, your GP will not be able to issue a sick note as the time off work is not due to an illness, and isn't affecting your ability to work, but rather is a precaution to avoid transmission of any illness that is yet to produce symptoms.

We therefore expect your employer to be sympathetic if you are required to self-isolate for 14 days or longer, and to understand that the reason for this is to protect the welfare of your work colleagues and the wider community. We understand that you may also be able to visit NHS 111 online or, only if absolutely necessary, call NHS 111 to request an email confirmation of the suspected Coronavirus diagnosis, to show to your employer if needed.

For up to date employment information, please go to <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Whilst we appreciate this may cause some difficulties between you and your employer, equally GPs have a responsibility to prioritise the assessment and management of the healthcare needs of patients who are acutely unwell, rather than spending time dealing with requests for sick notes, particularly when they aren't in a position to issue one.

This briefing has been written for and on behalf of your GP surgery, so please accept this as a reply to your request for a sick note/letter from the surgery.

Please do not contact us for a sick note if not required.

Thank you.