

March 2020

CORONAVIRUS AND REQUESTS FOR SICK NOTES (MED3s)

Dear Patient and/or Employer

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. An SC2 form can be downloaded from the internet. 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.

This form can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-sick-pay-employees-statement-of-sickness-sc2>

In light of the current coronavirus situation, it is inevitable that a number of employees may be required to quarantine themselves at home, for example because other members of the household are showing symptoms even in the absence of any symptoms of an illness in the employee. In these cases, GPs will not be able to issue a sick note as the time off work is not due to an illness and is not 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 and to understand that the reason for this is to protect the welfare of your work colleagues and the wider community. You can use the link below to obtain an isolation note from the NHS 111 website: <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/>.

ACAS have also published guidance for employees and employers which can be referred to below: <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 are not in a position to issue one.

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

Yours faithfully



ON BEHALF OF THE GP PARTNERS OF BEACON MEDICAL

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