



Consortium of Local Medical Committees

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Letter to Patients Requesting Reports in Support of Disability Claims

Dear Patient,

Your GP has a responsibility to look after your health and give appropriate treatment to you. Your GP can also issue you with a sick note (Med 3 certificate) when he or she thinks you are not well enough to work.

If you are wishing to claim a benefit from the Department of Work and Pensions or had an existing allowance terminated and are appealing against that decision you may need to provide evidence to support your appeal.

The Department of Work and Pensions, through your local Job Centre Plus, will already have information available to them on which they have based their decision. It is not necessary therefore for you to request any extra medical evidence from your GP. Indeed it may slow down or complicate the process.

Your GP is very busy seeing patients and unfortunately does not have the time available to complete such reports. Your GP is entitled to charge you for such a report and would not want to burden you with extra costs when they are not necessary.

Your best course of action is to contact Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service, where appropriate, if you think that further medical evidence may be necessary to support your claim or appeal. You should state clearly why you believe that further evidence is necessary. If Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service consider that further medical evidence is necessary, they will seek it directly from the GP. They will be responsible for paying any fee to the doctor providing the report.

Guidance provided by the Lancashire & Cumbria Consortium of Local Medical Committees