

Park Lane Practice



Unit 1-6, City Green
Sunderland
SR2 7BA
Tel: 0191 5026470

Re: Coronavirus and Requests for Doctor's Notes (Med3)

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. A 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.

Below is the address where this form can be downloaded:

<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 due to the nature of recent travel, or 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 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 and to understand that the reason for this is to protect the welfare of your work colleagues and the wider community. You can now go online using the link below in order 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 aren't in a position to issue one.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Joseph', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of Dr S Joseph, Park Lane Practice