



Request for "Sick Notes"

Dear Patient

You have requested a "sick note" from your GP in relation to being off work. The Government rules around GP's issuing a "sick note" are that a medical professional can issue a "sick note" when a patient has had **more than 7 continuous days off sick due to an illness (including weekends)**. For any period of illness less than 7 days, you are able to complete a "self-certification" certificate and provide this to your employer. If your employer does not accept a "self-certification" then the doctor **may at their discretion** issue a "private sick note", for which you may get charged.

In the current climate, with scares around the Coronavirus, there are incidents where employees are asked to quarantine themselves at home due to the nature of recent travel, without any symptoms of an illness. In these cases, the **GP will NOT** be able to issue a "sick note" as the time off work is not due to an illness, but as a precaution to avoid transmission of any illness that may not have yet presented with symptoms. Your employer will need to be sympathetic and understanding that for the welfare of your work colleagues you have had to take time off, but in the absence of a presenting illness the GP is not in a position to issue a "sick note" following the first 7 days. We understand that this may cause distress between you and your employer but in the current climate the doctors need to ensure patients with symptoms and illnesses are assessed and supported and time is not committed to considering applications for a "sick note" where a GP is not in a position to issue.

For children taking time off school, your GP surgery has **no NHS requirement to provide letters for school** to confirm time taken off from school. As you will appreciate in light of the emerging picture with Coronavirus and other day to day demands from ill patients the surgery unfortunately cannot accommodate a school request for GP letters and we hope that schools will work with the parents to ensure any time off is appropriately recorded without the need for a GP letter.

This note is written for and on behalf of your GP surgery and please accept this as a reply to your request for a sick note letter from the surgery.

Your sincerely
Dr M Jiva MBE
CEO Rochdale and Bury Local Medical Committee