

MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Suite G1, Britannic House, Llandarcy, Neath, SA10 6EL

Tel: 01792 815954

Office Hours: 9.30a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Monday – Friday

Fax: 01792 814938

Website: www.morgannwglmc.org.uk

E-mail: morgannwglmc@btconnect.com

Letter to Employers

24 July 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Self Certification and Sickness Certificate Issues

Despite the fact that employees can self certify absences of up to 7 consecutive days, some employers are still insisting NHS General Practitioners issue medical certificates for periods of sickness of less than 7 days.

The obligation on GPs to issue medical certificates is contained in the contract between GP and the Local Health Board. This only requires GPs to issue free of charge to a patient or their representative, any medical certificates that are reasonably required for the purpose of specific enactments. This does not include absences of less than 7 days duration and GPs have no obligation to issue such certificates.

The primary duty of GPs is to their patient, and not the patient's employer. Employers should not expect GPs to provide a free occupational health service. The Government has accepted that employers who ask their staff to go to their GPs and get medical certificates before they have been off work for 7 days are wasting over 2.4 million GP appointments per year. We must advise you that such unnecessary bureaucracy and workload on GPs helps neither patients nor you as an employer.

We regret any inconvenience to employers but feel that if the DWP can discharge its obligations without the need for short-term certification, employers should also do so or be prepared to make their own arrangements for sickness certification.

Yours faithfully



Secretary to Morgannwg Local Medical Committee