

FIFE LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

General Practice.

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For Your Employer.

Short Term Certification.

When self-certification was introduced it removed the necessity for employees to obtain medical certificates for short periods of absence from work. It also simplified the way in which employees could claim National Insurance Sickness Benefit.

Prior to self-certification many employers accepted the certificate provided by general practitioners as evidence that the employee had been prevented from working as a result of illness/injury. It was intended that self-certification would reduce bureaucracy and save the employee making an appointment with his/her G.P. just for the purpose of obtaining a certificate for a relatively minor illness. This would free up the time G.P.s. would previously have spent examining these patients to provide the necessary certification.

In the last few years, many G.P.s. in Fife have commented that there has been a tendency for more and more employers to ask their employees obtain medical certificates to support short absences from work. Self-certification is the **only** certification necessary for periods of sickness absence up to 7 days in duration.

G.P.s. have no statutory obligation to issue short term sickness certificates for periods of sickness absence up to 7 days.

Fife Local Medical Committee, which represents all general practitioners practising in Fife, recommends to its constituents that they do not issue short term certificates. It will, therefore, be pointless in future to ask your employees to obtain a certificate from their general practitioner for periods of absence of less than 7 days.

THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ISSUING OF STATUTORY MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR PERIODS OF SICKNESS EXCEEDING SEVEN DAYS.