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1 July, 2020

Request for medical certification for absence from work related to the Covid-19 pandemic for patients due to be admitted to hospital

Dear employer,

Your employee has been following current Government and/or public health advice related to the Covid-19 pandemic because they, or a member of their household, is due to be admitted to hospital.

Specifically, this is because they are following NHS advice for elective admissions to hospital (including day surgery), which states patients should isolate for 14 days prior to admission along with members of their household. A full copy of the guidance can be found [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/05/Operating-framework-for-urgent-and-planned-services-within-hospitals.pdf).
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If further medical assessment is required to assess ability to work during this time this needs to be arranged through an occupational health organisation. This is not offered by NHS general practice, although patients can request a medical summary of their qualifying conditions if required.

By law, employers may use their discretion around the need for medical evidence if an employee is absent from work due to a medical reason. We would ask you to apply this discretion to help support NHS general practice provide care for our population rather than being asked to fulfil unnecessary administrative tasks.

Many thanks for your assistance during this challenging time.

Lead Partner: Dr MF Dowling and Dr J Bloemertz

Name of Practice: Neetside Surgery

Please note the patient has not been clinically assessed but has self-identified as being due to be admitted to hospital and has printed this template letter from our practice website. Due to the current pandemic and pressure on general practice, we are prioritising the urgent medical needs of our patients and will not be providing a medical certificate for the required period of absence.