

**SICKNESS CERTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE  
UNFIT FOR UP TO 7 DAYS**

**To Whom It May Concern**

*College/School Medical Certificates*

- A GP cannot issue a certificate of sickness unless they (or a colleague) have actually seen the patient during the illness.
- Anyone who is ill for 7 days or less is covered by a self certificate (these SC2 Statements can be had from any Benefits Office or Employer). Doctors are not legally required to issue a medical certificate to cover the first 7 days of any illness.
- There is no requirement to issue a doctors certificate for students attending school or college as there is no “occupational need”. Our doctors are only required to provide such a statement under NHS and Department of Work and Pensions regulations for illness absences of 7 days or more, for employment related purposes only.
- If a school/college requires an official statement about a student’s absence, a report from their parent/guardian should be accepted by the establishment.
- Should a school/college have a particular concern regarding a student’s absence, then a letter (including the written consent of the student or their parent/guardian) should be sent to the GP detailing the reason why they wish a doctor’s report. **This private service is not covered by the NHS and therefore will be subject to a fee.**
- ***There is absolutely no benefit to either the student or the school/college, of a doctor signing a standard letter or certificate based on inadequate information, regarding past events that cannot be verified.***

We are sorry but we are unable to provide advice to individual students on this matter.