



Guidance notes for completing attached form for your patient

March 2019

Section 1.

Prognosis

Please note that this is only useful if you feel that the following applies to your patient:

- Their condition is unlikely to get better within the next 12 months or longer

If this doesn't apply you do not need to state a prognosis.

Other important information

There are two elements within Universal Credit – the 'limited capability for work-related activity' element and the 'limited capability for work' element. Patients deemed as having 'limited capability for work-related activity' do not have to undertake 'work-related activity'. This is activity specified by the DWP at times and places specified by the DWP.

People deemed to have only 'limited capability for work' will be expected to attend regular work-related activity, which could include going to job clubs, CV writing or even attending programmes at a frequency and duration specified by the DWP. If someone is unable to meet the DWP's demands their benefit will be sanctioned (ie drastically reduced).

If you feel that regular work-related activity (like that described above) would cause a significant deterioration in your patient's condition, please state this clearly here as this will be vital evidence for the DWP to decide whether your patient should be subjected to work-related activity conditions in order to receive their benefit.

If you feel that a home visit would be more beneficial to your client than them having to attend a medical at a specified place and time, then please also state this here with reasons.

Completing The Descriptors

Please note that when commenting on each one you need to consider whether the patient can do it:

- Safely – in a manner that causes no risk of harm to themselves or others, including whether the patient experiences any after-effects / exacerbation of symptoms from carrying out the descriptor and the length and nature of these
- Effectively – to an appropriate and necessary standard and in a timely manner – have they adopted any unusual techniques in order to assist them with the descriptor that means that they cannot do it to an appropriate and necessary standard or which means it takes them an unreasonably long time?
- Repeatedly – as and when they need or want to or as often as is reasonably required in a work situation
- Reliably – at will, as and when required, without having to stop or without having to do it in stages
- Whether or not any significant discomfort is experienced in trying to carry out the descriptor
- Do they use any aids to carry out the descriptor and if so do they have any difficulty using these aids?
- Do they need assistance, prompting or supervision to carry out the descriptor or does someone have to carry it out for them?

So to summarise, if their ability fluctuates, does the nature of the fluctuation mean:

- That they cannot carry out the task in the manner described above for over 50% of the time?
- There are times every day where they would be unable to carry out that descriptor because of the fluctuating nature of their condition?

Additional information

Can include prescribed medication with side effects, referrals, any other people involved in the case, such as social workers or other medics, test results, etc that you think would add to the picture of your patient's ability to carry out the activities on the following pages.

Many thanks for your assistance in completing this.

Name of patient

Address of patient

Patient's DOB

Name of GP/ Specialist

GP/ Specialist Address

Stamp/

Signature:

Today's Date

Date when patient last seen

Diagnosis of main disabling condition(s), treatment and prognosis if known, tests taken, referrals and medication prescribed

Would having to undertake regular work-related activity at specified times cause a significant deterioration in your patient's condition?

If a medical examination is requested by the DWP, does your patient require a home visit from ATOS to carry this out because attending a medical examination at an examining centre would exacerbate their symptoms? Does your client have difficulties in being able to go out reliably due to the extent of their symptoms?

Please could you comment on your patient's ability to carry out the following descriptors set out below.

- 1a. Please state the distance in metres the patient can move around repeatedly, reliably and safely for the majority of the time and any difficulties with moving around
- 1b. Going up or down 2 steps

2. Transferring from one seated position to another right next to it
3. Standing and sitting
4. Reaching
5. Manual Dexterity
6. Making self understood through speaking, writing, typing, or other means unaided by another person.
7. Understanding communication both written and verbal
8. Getting Around Safely
9. Absence or loss of control whilst conscious leading to extensive evacuation of bowels or voiding of bladder

10. Staying conscious when awake

11. Learning new tasks

12. Awareness of everyday hazards

13. Coping with change

14. Getting about

15. Social engagement, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder

16. Appropriateness of behaviour with other people due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder

17. Conveying food or drink to the mouth