**Statement regarding supporting letters for DWP appeals – PIP/ESA etc…**

Contractually, GPs are required to fill out Further Medical Evidence requests from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which inform assessments for benefits.

If a patient wants to appeal a DWP decision at an independent tribunal they can submit any extra evidence that might help their appeal, but this is not a DWP requirement and so GPs are not contractually obliged or paid to provide it.

Guidance from the DWP states:

“GPs, as certifying medical practitioners, have a statutory obligation to provide statements of incapacity to patients on their list and certain information to healthcare professionals working on behalf of DWP when requested. However, under their NHS contract there is no requirement for GPs to provide reports or offer an opinion on incapacity for work to anyone else unless requested to do so by Jobcentre Plus.

Claimants should contact Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service, where appropriate, if they think that further medical evidence is necessary to support their claim or appeal. They should state clearly their reasons for believing that further evidence is necessary.

If Jobcentre Plus or the Appeals Service considers that further medical evidence is necessary, they will seek it. They will be responsible for paying any fee to the doctor providing the report.”

*DWP factual medical reports: guidance for healthcare professionals (25 April 2017)*

Dated: 13 October 2022