Social Welfare Certificates for Sick Leave

Patients that are absent from work for six or more working days are entitled to claim social welfare (Illness Benefit). See the [Department of Social Protection website](#) for details.

Further useful information available here [Citizens Information: Sick Leave and Pay](#)

- Patients requiring a social welfare certificate **must see** a GP and/or provide correspondence from another doctor (e.g. discharge letter from hospital) to qualify for the first Social Welfare certificate. Those seeking Certification who have not seen the GP will be called in for appointment.

- To apply for this benefit you need to fill in application form **IB1** (available [online](#) or paper form from the office) to open your claim.
- A Medical Certificate of Illness (Med 1 form) from your GP - this is submitted electronically by the GP to the Department through a secure system.
- The e-Cert sent covers the totality of the illness and it is assumed you will return to work on the date provided.
- In the unexpected circumstance where you do not return to work an **in person review with your Doctor is required by law for ongoing certification.**

Fees

While there is no charge for the provision of a Medical Certificate of Illness itself where a consultation involves the assessment, investigation, management and or treatment of a medical condition usual consultation fees will apply.

Medical Certificates for Sick Leave (Employer)

Your employer can require you to provide a medical certificate (from your GP) when you are on sick leave for more than 2 or 3 consecutive days. The medical certificate should state the date you are likely to return to work. Typically certificates are provided on consultation with your GP.

Children Returning to School/Childcare

If your child is returning to school/childcare after an absence, **they do not require a GP certificate**. Please liaise with your school/childcare facility for their specific return to school protocol, as they may require you to complete documentation.