

To: T Baddams
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DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI4024

9 December 2015

Dear Ms Baddams,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 22 September 2015.

You asked:

“guidelines for WCA home visits

Esther Mcvey talked about a list of conditions where the home visit would apply, what are the guidelines?

What are the guidelines relating to those not requiring a face to face assessment?

What are the guidelines to a heart attack victim being signed off sick? Does he have to go to a face to face assessment in his recovery period?”

Information relating to paper based assessments and domiciliary visits can be found in the Revised Work Capability Assessment Handbook, please see sections 2 and 4.4 in the attached: [link https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-capability-assessment-handbook-for-healthcare-professionals](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-capability-assessment-handbook-for-healthcare-professionals)

In reply to your request please find attached a copy of the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Filework Guidelines for Health Care Professionals (HCP) which is information relating to the pre-board check of the Limited Capability for Work questionnaire (ESA 50). These are the guidelines that the HCP follows to determine whether a face to face assessment is required.

No specific guidelines exist relating to your request for information pertaining to heart attack victims.

This requested document has been produced as part of a training programme for approved Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) to carry out WCA's. All HCPs undertaking these assessments must be registered medical or nursing practitioners who in addition, have undergone training in disability assessment medicine and more specific training. The training includes theory training in a classroom setting, supervised practical training, and a demonstration of understanding as assessed by quality audit. This document must be read with the understanding that, as experienced medical or nursing practitioners, the HCPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques and therefore such information is not contained in these documents. In addition, this is not stand-alone document, and form only a part of the training and written documentation that a HCP receives. As disability assessment is a practical occupation, much of the guidance also involves verbal information and coaching. Thus, although the document may be of interest to non-medical readers, some of the information may not be

readily understood without background medical knowledge and an awareness of the other training and guidance given to HCPs.

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DWP learning modules are currently being updated and are expected to be updated as part of the usual annual cycle of changes. Until then, you may find that some learning and development information still uses existing terminology such as 'Atos Healthcare' and 'Medical Services'.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745