

Health conditions and disabilities – day 1 to day 29

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First 14 days

Day 15 onwards

Day 29

First 14 days

Claimants can self-certify for up to the first 7 days after they report being unfit for work due to a health condition or disability.

From day 8, if not already done so, the claimant is required to submit medical evidence, most commonly a Statement of Fitness for Work (SoFFW) – usually known as a fit note - from the claimant's GP or other healthcare professional. The SoFFW should be returned to the claimant if practicable, for example if the claimant is present when details from the SoFFW are input.

Claimants may be referred, if appropriate, for a WCA from day 1 of their health condition related claim where they have certain specified conditions or are undergoing certain specified treatments.

When a claimant reports that they have a health condition or disability, they do not have to look for work or be available for work for the duration of their medical evidence for up to the first 14 days after it is reported.

This is the case for the first 2 periods of a reported health condition in a rolling 12-month period in receipt of Universal Credit.

If a claimant has more than 2 periods of having a health condition in a rolling 12 month period they can be asked to undertake work search activities or be available for work from Day 1, subject to their individual circumstances and what may be reasonable based on their health condition. During this 14 day period the claimant may be set WFI requirements and tailored work preparation activities.

More detailed guidance on switching off work related requirements can be found in the Claimant's Commitment Hub.

Claimants do not automatically have work search and availability requirements 'switched off', for up to 14 days, after being found 'fit for work' following a Work Capability Assessment (WCA), where the condition is the same, or substantially the same, as the condition they were suffering before the WCA.

Day 15 onwards

From day 15, any work-related activities can be agreed in a claimant's commitment.

Work-related activities must be reasonable based on the claimant's circumstances, taking account of the impact of their health and their ability to find and take up work.

For work search/availability requirements to be switched off, the period of sickness must be supported by a SoFFW.

The impact of the claimant's current health condition must be considered in relation to the number of hours they are expected to search for work and the hours, type and location of work they are expected to search for.

More detailed guidance can be found in the Claimant's Commitment Hub.

Day 29

At day 29, providing the claimant has current medical evidence, he or she must, if not already done so, be referred for a Work Capability Assessment (WCA).