

Work capability assessments

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Work capability assessments (WCA) are carried out by external providers as part of the Health Assessment Advisory Service.

The WCA is a functional assessment which assesses what a claimant can do, as well as what they can't do.

The healthcare provider may need to gather further medical evidence from other sources such as their GP. To enable this to happen we need to get consent from the claimant to do so. If the claimant is not willing to give consent this doesn't prevent the WCA referral from happening and the referral should still be made.

It is not necessary for claimants to provide consent for the Department to contact the healthcare provider prior to a WCA referral being made.

Claimants migrating from ESA to Universal Credit will have had a WCA decision made on their ESA claim. This decision will now be used on the UC claim.

Details of the ESA WCA decision will be captured on the UCFS MGP1 (DWP). This form has been amended to reflect this.

The WCA decision will be recorded by the national inbox team and will only occur when the claimant has declared a health condition.

If the claimant fails to declare they are sick on the claim to Universal Credit when they naturally migrate, confirmation should be obtained that they are still sick. If so, the claimant must amend the information they have submitted.

If they are no longer sick and the information they submitted is correct, a record should be made that the claimant is no longer sick.

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