

Subject line: Changes to medical certificate process for Work and Income

Kia ora,

Last week, [the Government has announced proposed changes to the process for medical certificates](#) for people with a health condition, injury, or disability, and who are getting Jobseeker Support.

Currently, people need to provide a medical certificate to help assess their eligibility for Jobseeker Support, Health Condition and Disability. They're also usually required to provide more medical certificates after a certain period to continue getting payments. We've stopped this for now and will continue to defer this until the new process takes effect next year.

Review periods for medical certificates changing from 31 January 2022

From next January, the proposed process would mean people will still need to provide an initial medical certificate when they apply for support as this helps us accurately assess their eligibility.

However, the time between providing their first medical certificate and their next one would be recommended by you, the person's health practitioner, instead of being based on a mandatory set of weeks (for example, at least every four weeks for the first two months, and every 13 weeks after that).

The review period would instead be based on how long the person's ability to work is expected to be affected by their health condition, injury or disability.

This new process would allow more flexibility in the time between medical reviews and may mean people need to visit their health practitioner less often. It's also expected to reduce pressure on the health sector with an estimated 20,000 fewer medical certificated needing to be processed each month.

Working with you

We want to make sure this new proposed process will work for health practitioners and our shared clients. Please pass on this information to your networks and let them know we'll continue to communicate about these changes in the coming months.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Ngā mihi

David Bratt

Principal Health Advisor