

FAQs

What is the Certificate of Capacity?

It is a new medical certificate which focuses on capacity and facilitates GPs to consider work as part of recovery and rehabilitation. This certificate focuses on what the patient can do rather than what they can't do at work.

Why is the medical certificate changing?

There is compelling evidence that, in general, work is good for health and wellbeing. Evidence also says long-term work absence, work disability and unemployment have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. A greater focus on what capacity a patient has at work is also being recognised in other employees' compensation schemes across Australia.

How is the Certificate of Capacity different from previous certificates?

The Certificate of Capacity focuses on the capacity of the patient, rather than incapacity and promotes the role of safe and good work as part of recovery from illness or injury.

The Certificate of Capacity is divided into two parts.

Part A is all about the person. It details the injury, their capacity for work and what supports may need to be in place for the person to recover at work and the treatment plan to support their recovery and rehabilitation.

Part B is all about the additional administrative information required for a claim to be processed.



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Who is using the Certificate of Capacity?

The Certificate of Capacity will be used by GPs in the ACT and surrounding region from July 2015. The Certificate of Capacity provides ill or injured employees with an opportunity to safely manage their work duties as they recover at work from illness or injury.

Employers can play an active role in helping employees recover at work. This certificate will help them understand their employee's level of capacity at work and how they can contribute to return to work plans and participate in return to work case conferences.

What else has changed on the Certificate of Capacity?

GPs can now request a return to work case conference which is a meeting for all stakeholders to discuss the requirements for return to work, including any workplace support or adjustments that will assist the employee to return to work.

This meeting could take place between any combination of the GP, employer, patient, their treatment providers and insurer. Employees are invited to bring a person to support them in these discussions.

What can I expect if I tick the box to hold a return to work case conference?

The employer or Workplace Rehabilitation Provider will contact you to set up a return to work case conference and work with you to identify who should participate, the purpose and the expected outcomes.

Where can I access the new Certificate of Capacity?

The Certificate of Capacity is currently loaded in to your medical practice software. You can also download it from the Comcare website and the Capital Health Network website.

Who can I ask for further information?

For more information about the Certificate of Capacity contact:

- GP Liaison, Comcare on (02) 6112 9617
- Health Benefits of Work Programme team via HealthBenefitsofWork@comcare.gov.au

"The Certificate of Capacity aims to improve the information exchange about work capacity and encourage a positive focus on what an injured or ill worker can do."

Professor Niki Ellis OAM, Work for Health Advisor.