**FIT NOTES**

‘Statement of Fitness for Work’ or ‘Fit Note’ replaced form Med 3 (from 6 April 2010). They should be issued to patients who need time off of work due to a condition or procedure **OR** who may be fit for work with support from their employer.

Hospital in-patients

* On discharge from hospital, the doctor who has clinical responsibility for the patient should provide, if required, a Fit Note to cover a forward period
* Examples: post flare of IBD, first seizure so cannot drive for period of weeks, post surgery etc
* **DO NOT** tell the patient to go their GP for a Fit Note
* If needing 7 days or less off of work, patients to self-certify
* Document any discussion with the patient e.g. “anticipate less than 7 days off of work needed therefore advised to self certify” on the discharge summary
* Form Med 10 (yellow form) can be issued to cover any period that a patient is in hospital for (nurses can also fill this in)

Hospital out-patients

* Where the patient’s GP has not taken over responsibility for the condition, the treating clinician should issue any statements for an appropriate forward period
* Telephone conversations are acceptable forms of assessment
* Examples: inflammatory arthropathies, patients whom are immunosuppressed but may be able to work from home, patients whom are being seen as new and care not yet handed back to GP, fracture clinic patients

Choose either:

1. Not fit **OR**
2. Fit for work taking into account the following advice e.g. Can’t drive, could work from home, light duties for 2 weeks etc. *If employer decides cannot accommodate these requests, it reverts to ‘Not Fit for Work’, patient does not need to come back to you to confirm this*

During first 6 months, a Fit Note can be issued for no longer than 3 months at a time. **It is only advice, a patient can return to work sooner if wishes to** & equally the advice on the statement for employers is not binding.

Now embedded into EPR at Denmark Hill site:

Select Patient >>Enter Order >> Type in ‘Fit’ >> Fit Form (Statement of Fitness for Work) will appear >> Add >> Fill in details >> Click Ok >> Click Submit

When order form is submitted, the Fit Note is set up to print automatically.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fit-note>

**If you are not sure whether or not you should be issuing a Fit Note, particularly for outpatients, please discuss with a senior. Ensure any reasoning is clearly documented and conveyed to the GP**