

Information Standards Notice – New

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) has approved a new information standard for publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Act 2012.

You must comply with this new standard by the full conformance date specified below.

Standard details	
DAPB unique identifier	DAPB4011 Amd 34/2021
Name	eMED3 (fit notes) in Secondary Care
Approval date	27 October 2022
Publication date	10 November 2022
Standard definition	
Description	<p>The Statement of Fitness for Work was introduced in April 2010 across England, Wales and Scotland. In 2012, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) enabled General Practices to produce computer-generated fit notes (eMED3). This new standard builds on this work and legislation changes that came into force in July 2022 allowing fit notes to be issued electronically by a range of healthcare professionals in secondary care and changes to the Social Security (Medical Evidence) and Statutory Sick Pay (Medical Evidence) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 which means that there will no longer be a requirement to sign the eMED3 form in ink. The fit notes will be digitally certified replacing the current wet signature.</p> <p>Informing primary care that a fit note has been issued in secondary care is not in scope of this standard but may be introduced in a future release.</p>
Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	NHS Services
Applies to	All NHS funded secondary care providers
Impacts upon	<p>This mandatory Information Standard requires secondary care NHS funded healthcare providers in England to electronically issue eMED3 fit notes.</p> <p>Fit notes may be completed by the issuing Registered Medical Practitioner, Nurse, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, or Occupational therapists.</p>

Legal authority	This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The responsibility for issuing fit notes is covered in the current NHS Standard Contract, service condition 11.12.
Link to further documentation	The Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb4011 Further guidance is published by the Department for Work and Pensions and NHS Digital: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fit-note https://future.nhs.uk/DWPDigitalFitNoteSecondaryCare
Contacts	
Sponsor	Jean King, Deputy Director, Health Division, Work and Health Joint Unit
SRO	Ursula Montgomery, Interim Director of Primary Care, NHS England
Business Lead	Ann Newman, Policy Advisor, Department for Work and Pensions
Help Desk	fitnote.team@dwp.gov.uk (please include 'eMED3' in subject line)
Dates	
Implementation date	10 November 2022
Full conformance date	30 November 2023
Post Implementation Review date	1 April 2024

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns