

Introductory comments from Dr Wilson about today's medical assessment.

I have prepared these introductory comments with the expectation that it will help to make you feel more informed about the process.

The medical assessment today has been arranged for the purpose of supplying a medical report for your insurer or solicitor. It is important that you understand there are court directives that are binding on these medico-legal reports that prevent me from leaning my opinion in the direction of the firm that has arranged the examination. If this examination has been arranged by the insurer, you should understand that I do not work for the insurer.

I allow 90 minutes (it may not take that long), will ask many questions, will conduct a physical examination appropriate to the condition, will review X-ray and other investigation results, and at the end will allow you to raise any matter that you feel is relevant.

You are free to "pass" on any question if you are uncomfortable with it, although I may have to make mention of such in the report.

It is inappropriate for me to give you advice or treatment, and it is inappropriate for me to provide you with any indication of the conclusions of my report.

I am an occupational physician. I specialise in work-related conditions, and issues of fitness for work.

I will proceed on the expectation that you will be provided with a copy of my report, but it is not my role to provide you with that copy. Depending on the condition, I may request you to complete a symptom chart; if so you will be provided with a copy.

My report will provide reasons for opinions, and if you are unhappy with any aspect of the report, such should not be communicated to myself, but to the firm that has commissioned the report.

I respect your right to have a support person present, but request that such person does not contribute to the process unless specifically requested.

In many cases the physical examination can be done without removal of clothing, however if the examination requires the removal of any clothing, I can have one of the office/nursing staff present during that part of the examination. A screen is available for dressing and undressing.

If you have any concerns that have not been addressed by the above, please feel free to raise them at with me.