**Template**

Dear Employer,

**Request for medical certification for absence from work during the Covid-19 pandemic for patients due to be admitted to hospital for surgery**

Your employee has been following current government and/or public health advice related to the Covid-19 pandemic because they, or a member of their household, is due to be admitted to hospital for surgery/medical procedures.

This is specific NHS England’s advice for elective admissions to hospital (including day surgery) which states that patients should isolate for 14 days prior to admission along with members of their household. A full copy of the guidance can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/05/Operating-framework-for-urgent-and-planned-services-within-hospitals.pdf>

If further medical assessment is required by the employer to assess ability to work during this time this needs to be arranged through an occupational health organisation. This is not offered by NHS general practice although patients can request a medical summary of their records if required.

By law, employers may use discretion around the need for medical evidence if an employee is absent from work due to a medical reason. We would ask you to apply this discretion to help support NHS general practice especially during this challenging Covid-19 period.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Name of practice lead GP:

*Please note the patient has not been clinically assessed but has self-identified as being due to be admitted to hospital and has printed this template letter from our practice website. Due to the current pandemic and pressure on general practice, we are prioritising the urgent medical needs of our patients and will not be providing a medical certificate for the required period of absence.*