

What is Occupational Medicine?

Occupational Medicine is the speciality of medicine that deals with the affects of health on work and the affects of work on health.

What is a Specialist in Occupational Medicine?

This is a doctor who has completed higher professional training and holds qualifications in the specialty of occupational medicine. The doctor is registered with the Medical Council of Ireland as a Specialist in Occupational Medicine, partakes in continuous medical education and operates according to the Medical Council's guidelines for occupational health. If you have been referred for an occupational health assessment at Medwise, you will be seen by a Specialist in Occupational Medicine.

Referral for an occupational health assessment:

You may be referred to Medwise by your manager, human resource department or health and safety department. The manager will inform you the reason you are been referred prior to your appointment at Medwise. You are welcome to bring a letter from your own doctor to the occupational health assessment.

The common reasons for referral for an occupational health assessment:

1. To provide treatment for a work related injury or illness.
2. To offer you advice and support regarding a health problem and its effect on your work and to facilitate you in providing reliable and effective service.
3. To ensure that you are medically fitness to work safely to protect your health and that of your co-workers.
4. To allow recommendations of reasonable adjustments to the work environment to accommodate your health needs.
5. To comply with legal health and safety requirements for fitness standards, e.g. eyesight for drivers of HGVs.
6. To offer vaccination against infectious diseases that you may be exposed to during the course of your work.
7. As part of a health surveillance program to detect early health affects from exposure to work place hazards e.g. hearing tests in workers exposed to loud noise.

What happens during the occupational health assessment?

On arrival please check in with the receptionist. You will be requested to provide details of your name, age, address, occupation, smoking and exercises level for the confidential occupational health file. You will be seen by the Specialist in Occupational Medicine who will carry out a medical assessment, which may include a physical examination. You may also see the Occupational Health Nurse who will carry out any additional investigations such as lung function testing, vision testing or administer vaccines. If necessary the Medwise doctor will recommend that you receive further treatment. For example, you may be referred to a physiotherapist or a counselor.

The purpose of the assessment will be explained to you and you will be requested to give your written consent to undergo the assessment, to allow disclosure of medical details to your employer and to allow the Specialist in Occupational Medicine communicate and liaise with your own doctors and exchange medical information.

On completion of the assessment the Specialist in Occupational Medicine will issue a report to your employer.

What will the report contain?

The report will outline the implications of your health status on your ability to attend work and perform your role safely and effectively. The report will state if you require further treatment or investigation. The report may recommend reasonable adjustments to your workplace to accommodate your health needs and enable you to provide reliable and effective service going forward. If you are unwell, the report will outline when you are likely to be fit to resume work and if any modifications to the working conditions are necessary to facilitate your recovery and return to work e.g. a phased return to work program.

No confidential medical details will be disclosed to your employer or any other third party without your written consent. The term "medical condition" may be used to describe an illness that you do not wish disclosed to your employer.

May I see the occupational health report?

Under the Data Protection and the Freedom of Information Acts you have access to medical files and reports. However, you must put your request in writing to your employer who is the Data Controller.

What if a further appointment is required?



MedWise
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The Occupational Health Assessment: a Guide for the Employee

You may be requested to make a further appointment at reception. Or your manager may make a review appointment for you. If you are unable to attend for an appointment we request that you give reasonable notice of cancellation otherwise your employer may be charged for the clinic time.