

Employment and Support Allowance Case Study

ESA is an out of work benefit for people who are too sick or disabled to work. At the work capability assessment test (used to determine the entitlement of the claimant and to assess to what extent the claimant's illness or disability affects their ability to work) Mr M, your client, was scored 0 points. Mr M is now appealing the decision by the Department of Work and Pensions to not grant him Employment and Support Allowance. You are helping them with their appeal by looking through the ESA descriptors and identifying which descriptors may apply to them.

Mr M suffers from type 2 diabetes and is insulin dependent; he administers the insulin himself three-times a day, which must be done on time to avoid serious harm to his health (without the insulin, he risks having a hypoglycaemic attack, which may have fatal consequences such as eye damage, heart attack, kidney problems, stroke/seizures)

However, his diabetes is controlled and adequately managed with insulin; he is able to get on with daily activities without much disruption and difficulties, but reported feeling dizzy and out of breath when mobilising a distance of approximately 150 meters. Mr M also has some difficulties with lifting and carrying heavy, bulky items.

He suffers from depression problems and has difficulties sleeping; his GP is aware of this condition and has not yet prescribed any medication. He reported feeling quite anxious when he is in unfamiliar places and finds it difficult to engage with people he has not met before.

Go through the physical and mental health descriptors and identify the ones that you think apply to this client and why.

What areas do you think would be hardest to prove and why?

What would your next steps be if you were managing this case?