

Returning to Work – 20 May 2020

With regards to whether or not practitioners in the UK can return to work.

The Acupuncture Acupuncture Council is only able to provide guidance in line with government recommendations. We appreciate that the government recommendations at this time, are confusing, and that you may need to interpret them for your own personal situation. However, please be aware that there may be issues with insurance if you were to go back to work before you've received government permission to do so. (For example, let's say a patient contracted COVID-19, and pointed fingers towards you or your practice as being the source of the infection.) If you were returning to work with government backing, the insurance companies would have to cover you.

If, however, you returned to work before the government guidance suggested it was okay, then the chances are that you could open yourself up to liability.

We are awaiting further comment from our insurers, Holistic Insurance & others, and as soon as they issue a position statement, we will follow up with further advice.

With regards to Disclaimers. These do not necessarily stand up in Court as the person signing it could allege that it was signed under duress. If practitioners are working illegally then the insurance will not respond to a claim. The only way for practitioners to return to work is to have authorisation from Public Health, their Local Authority or their MP. This must be in writing along with the guidelines that go with sanitising premises, PPE and social distancing.

Please keep us informed, if you do have any contact with your local authority or MP.

We will keep you updated when there is any further definitive developments.

Stay safe and well in the meantime.