

## COVID19 - Making a return to Face to Face Assessments

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Prime Minister announced revised lockdown restrictions which permitted those people who need to enter someone's home to do their job, to do so. He made it clear however that the homes of those people who are shielding or clinically vulnerable should be avoided, unless it was an emergency.

As a consequence of this and with an appropriate level of caution, we are, now able to undertake face to face assessments in some quantum cases. Our associates will consider several key factors before making a decision to see a claimant face to face, including:

- Legal, regulatory and professional responsibilities
- Risk assessment (in respect of their specific assessment methods and tools and whether the assessment will take place within or outside the 2-metre recommended social distancing radius)
- Infection prevention and control measures
- Access to personal protective equipment
- 'Virtual first' approaches
- Whether the assessment can be undertaken without the use of public transportation
- Claimant risk assessment and clinical reasoning
- Regional data available regarding number of COVID Positive cases, secondary to the successful development of the Track and Trace app
- Claimant consent for assessment

**The overriding consideration at all times is the health and safety of the Claimant, other attendees and our associate.**

All associates have a duty of care to not to do anything which could put the health and safety of a service user, carer, member of the community or themselves at unacceptable risk.

We will of course keep you fully informed as to our risk assessment and decision-making process.

### **Virtual assessments**

We have been successfully undertaking virtual assessments of many claimant's since lockdown commenced in March and this is still very much the preference where possible. If, however a face to face assessment is agreed between the parties, we will continue to monitor the appropriateness of the same in the light of any change in expert or Claimant circumstances and with reference to further government directives.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of a face to face assessment in respect of one of your current or potential cases or would like to understand more about our risk assessments and guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us at: [admin@somek.com](mailto:admin@somek.com)