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**Sent:** 27 February 2012 11:46

**To:** DWP PIP assessment

**Cc:** ndavies@rcpsych.ac.uk; Deborah.Chaloner@leicspart.nhs.uk

**Subject:** Royal College of Psychiatrists - Midlands Division

Dear Sirs

I have reviewed this document on behalf of the Midlands Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. I work as a Consultant psychiatrist treating people with physical problems. I also run the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Service for Leicestershire.

It is helpful to have some worked examples.

The documents and procedures would seem to be reasonable. I think that the issue will be in the expertise of the assessors and how this is implemented. The public need to be assured that these are independent practitioners who are able to make, what can be in some case, complex assessments. There is a particular issue in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome because the rate of recovery is slow and so people may have progressed over many months to the point that they may score lowly on these ratings but be at risk of relapse and require support for a few extra months (for example with mobility support). The withdrawal of support too early may precipitate a relapse. This issue of prognosis or natural history of the underlying conditions does not appear to be part of the assessment.

Yours sincerely

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