

## **Reply from the PIP policy team regarding the recording of assessment interviews**

Claimants and companions are entitled to take notes for their own purposes. The claimant or companion may keep the notes and does not have to provide a copy to the health professional (HP), although the HP may record that notes were taken. The notes are for the claimant or companion's own purposes and are not an official record of the process. In addition, the claimant may request a copy of the assessment report from DWP, once it's been submitted by the HP/Provider.

However where claimants do still feel an audio recording would be helpful, they may record the consultation using their own equipment, subject to a few conditions. These conditions are:

- The claimant must inform the provider in advance that they wish to record their consultation.
- The claimant must be able to provide a complete and accurate copy of the recording to the HP at the end of the consultation in CD or cassette format.
- The claimant must sign a form in which they agree that they will provide a copy of the recording and not use the recording for unlawful purposes.

The requirement is that claimants must be able to provide a copy of the recording at the end of a consultation in such a way as to ensure that the recording has not been tampered with to ensure it is a reliable and accurate record of the assessment. For this reason certain devices which are capable of real-time editing or live-streaming are not approved. These include but are not limited to PCs and laptops, tablets, smart phones, MP3 players or devices which cannot provide a media copy that can be easily verified during the consultation”