

From: [Stephen Buckley](#)
To: [Non Treat Practitioners](#)
Subject: Authorised Health Practitioners
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Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

My particular expertise relates to catastrophic, and in particular Traumatic Brain Injury. There is no recognition in the current arrangements for CTP Authorised Practitioners which recognises the special expertise required to be capable of making a fair assessment of such injuries, and people with no special expertise or experience are able to provide evidence about such injuries.

If there is to be a scheme of authorised practitioners, and limited assessments (only one assessment allowed) then the authorisation should include an assessment of expertise, not simply availability.

Second, there is no recognition of the special complexity of such assessments, in terms of paying for such assessments, and unless there is proper recognition, by way of payment, then I will no longer be providing opinions to any great extent, in the scheme. The enormous documentation which accompanies such assessments, and prolonged interview times cannot be justified at the authorised rate, which is the same rate as for an injury of the finger, which can be assessed in ten minutes, and the report prepared in five. Typically, I spend five hours on such brain injury assessments. Those who claim it can be done in significantly less time are either unaware of the complexities, or else not prepared to spend the time needed to properly assess such injuries. I believe that I am a highly efficient practitioner in this regard, used to making decisions on highly complex matters, on a very frequent basis, and have been cross examined in such matters hundreds of times, which forms the basis for my assessment of the detail required in brain injury matters.

Yours sincerely

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