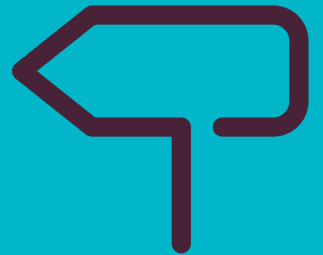




Calling the EAP Helpline

Employee Guide



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When should I contact Health Assured?

When the time feels right, you may feel the need to reach out for emotional or practical support. Health Assured know how difficult it can be to take those first steps. Our qualified and experienced counsellors are ready to listen and provide guidance.

You may be looking for some practical advice. Health Assured have qualified legal advisors who will assist with any legal matters. The EAP is available 24/7, 365, so help is always available, at a time which suits you.

How can Health Assured help me?

Health Assured provide emotional support and practical guidance. The counsellors on the helpline will triage, and provide early interventions. You can take advantage of structured counselling, or use the helpline to work through your current situation.

If you have any practical concerns, legal advisors can help. They'll provide advice and guidance on issues such as:



Writing a will



Tenancy and housing concerns



Divorce procedures



Boundary disputes



Probate costs



Motoring issues



Property and partnership rights



Immigration information

What will happen when I call Health Assured?



A qualified counsellor or legal advisor will answer. If it's your first call, they'll ask for the name of your employer, and some contact details. Health Assured use this information to get you set up and ready on their system.



If you've called before, they'll ask some security questions. These are simple—your date of birth, or postcode. Data security is important, so you must answer these correctly to continue.



They'll ask what your call relates to. This is to make sure you get the right support, as quickly as possible. If a counsellor answers, and you need legal advice, they will transfer you to an advisor and vice versa. In the unlikely event that the appropriate counsellor or advisor is unavailable, they'll arrange a call-back at the best time for you.

What does a Health Assured counselling call look like?

Health Assured counsellors use a proactive approach to supporting you. They offer space and time to talk about your concerns. They provide guidance and mindfulness techniques that will help you in the present.

A few simple changes are often enough to make a world of difference. The counsellors can suggest useful resources that will help you make those changes. You might feel that this is enough—at the end of the call, the counsellor will explain the options available.

You can choose to simply call back, if you want to talk again. Or, if you want to access structured counselling, the counsellor will offer to complete a clinical assessment. This isn't as drastic as it might sound—it takes around 20 minutes. The questions asked will ensure you get the best support possible, and you can complete the assessment at a time best for you.

Counsellors are available 24/7, 365.

What does a Health Assured advisory call look like?

Health Assured advisors have the same proactive approach as the counsellors. They're experts in legal processes, obligations and liabilities. They'll listen to your issues, and offer guidance on the best way to proceed.

While the advisors aim to resolve your issues in-house, sometimes they'll need to direct you to other resources. This is so you can be sure you're receiving the most appropriate advice.

Advice is available 24/7, 365.

Why are my details taken?

The EAP is confidential. In order to provide the best service, however, counsellors/advisors ask for a few details. They'll need your name, address, contact number and date of birth. They'll also ask if it's okay to leave a voicemail, or send you an SMS—it's fine to say no to these.

Health Assured treat your data with total confidence. All employees are bound by ethical and legal frameworks, and the service is ISO27001 accredited.

Will Health Assured contact my employer?

Health Assured provide a confidential service. They won't contact your employer or occupational health team when you call the EAP helpline.

The only time Health Assured will contact your employer is after receiving a referral form. If your employer wants to refer you to Health Assured for any reason, your employer must have your written consent.

Health Assured will email your employer after receiving a referral form to acknowledge receipt, and again if they can't contact you.

Will you contact my GP?

In most cases, no. Health Assured would only need to share information if:

- They believed that someone else is at risk of serious harm.
- They were told about acts of terrorism or bomb warnings.
- You asked them to get you help because you can't do this yourself.
- You expressed that you were experiencing thoughts of self-harm or that you were having suicidal thoughts.

Health Assured will always seek your consent before contacting your GP or the emergency services. However, if it is deemed that you are an immediate risk to yourself or others, this may not be possible.

What happens if I want to access structured counselling?

If you decide structured counselling is for you, the counsellor will carry out a clinical assessment.

Health Assured use biological, psychological and social factors during the assessment—this is called the 'biopsychosocial model of health'. It allows the counsellor to explore your concerns with you, and identify goals for the counselling.

Counsellors know that it's not always easy to answer personal questions. By using the above model, they aim to set you at ease, and make the assessment as comfortable as possible. It takes around **20 minutes**, and is completed via telephone. The assessment is a vital part of the therapeutic process, and must be carried out—you can complete it at a time that suits you. After the assessment, your counsellor will work out the most appropriate treatment for you.

What will happen in the counselling sessions?



You will work with the same counsellor on a weekly basis, and each session will last for **50 minutes**. The counselling sessions will provide a safe and confidential space for you to talk about how you are feeling, and help to identify a way forward.



The counsellors use a solution-focused approach—this concentrates on the here and now. Talking through your problems is a powerful way to deal with them. This approach encourages mindfulness, and helps build change.



You'll set targets and goals during the sessions, building your own plan and resources—in these sessions you are the expert. No-one knows your own mind as well as you do.



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