

Impact on work Example 9: Part-time supermarket cashier

1. Does your joint limit the time you spend doing your work or your ability to do your usual work?
NOTES: I used to work in the clothing department but couldn't carry on as the pain was too bad as I was standing all day. I had to be transferred onto the tills so that I could sit down. I have also had to cut down my hours as I am in too much pain to sit at the tills all day.
2. Does your joint make it difficult for you to get around your place of work?
NOTES: I sit down for most of the day so don't walk around too much. It is all on the level and is quite open so there isn't a problem getting around.
3. Does your joint make it difficult to do specific tasks or activities in your place of work?
NOTES It was difficult for me to do my usual role of serving customers in the clothing department. I also had to push racks of clothes which involved a lot of walking and standing on my feet for long periods. This is why I was moved to the tills.
4. Does your joint affect the way you feel at work?
NOTES: I didn't really want to move onto the tills as I enjoyed being in the clothing department but I understand that it was my own good even though I found it frustrating.
5. Does the treatment you are receiving for your joint e.g. painkillers, physiotherapy, affect your ability to work?
NOTES: I was going to physiotherapy but didn't get much done as I kept getting upset with the frustration of it all. I also had to start using a walking stick at work which wasn't the best and made me feel even worse. I tried to use other methods for pain relief rather than pain killers and resorted to herbal remedies which didn't have much of an effect.
6. Does your joint make it difficult for you to concentrate and make decisions at work?
NOTES: I don't really need to make decisions at work but I do get very emotional at work sometimes which isn't good when you are dealing with customers.
7. Are there any 'essential' tasks that you need to be able to do in your place of work that you cannot do because of your joint?
NOTES: The essential tasks I needed to do that I can't do now have been taken away from me by changing what I am doing. Now that I am sitting at a till I can do my job although I do need to get up and walk around every hour.
8. Are there any tasks that you feel are unsafe because of your joint?
NOTES: I don't feel unsafe now as I have changed what I am doing. My employer has made sure that I am safe doing what I'm doing.