

Jack hasn't seen Muris due to him being unwell

He has arranged for Muris to have a telehealth consult on 09/02 with Physio Jack Murphy

I updated Jack re my contact with Muris, he said his is quite similar; Muris still repeating over and over the same things in relation to his condition and the supposed new theories etc

Seems still quite fixated on it; anxiety around it, limited focus on recovering

This is compounded by that W hasn't seen psych due to Christmas then W unwell

We agreed can't do much more until psych gets more involved

RTWC to follow up after Jack Murphy 09/02 & check when psych apt

I spoke to Muris' psychologist Simon Pearson last week, then spoke to Muris. The psychologist has seen him twice now, both online though; then Muris saw the other psychologist in the practice in December. They have both indicated there may be signs of Somatic Symptom Disorder, however I am unclear whether testing has been undertaken, or they are just reporting signs of it at this stage. Simon said it is very complex; to Muris his symptoms are real. I'll continue to stay in contact with Simon; if in fact this diagnosis is what is preventing Muris from recovering / progressing, I need to establish what if anything can be done about this. Furthermore, the GP probably needs to be aware.

When I spoke to Muris, he reports no improvement in his symptoms. He is not engaging in EP currently either, he reports due to the effects that Covid has had on him; he said he feels unwell similarly how he did after having the vaccine.

IME today

He is doing a report as requested by claims

Aligns with Somatic Symptom Disorder

Totally real for him

He doesn't leave the house

Recommendations: work alongside GP; support his placebo/viral medication

He will try to speak to the GP

He might also contact Maria

I updated Simon re communications between Maria and GP

He has been seeing the GP since 2015

Before he had the vaccine he was worried about it; he was predisposed to being worried about it prior

Simon advised this is one of the most complex cases he has been a part of

Description

Returned from leave yesterday

Found out doesn't need to be vaccinated now

Had started the exemption process then found out

Still doing 0.6

Seeing GP 25/11

Likely to be the same capacity

Getting a 2nd opinion cardiologist

Had a set back, physically hasn't been able to do much, so cancelled the EP apt; therefore seeing this Friday 04/11

he is doing the higher duties,, thinks its for 6 months

Muris wanted to know what happens if he can't ever do his normal job and if he has permanent restrictions

To a degree I explained suitable employment and talked about what may be reasonable from his employer's perspective if he has long term permanent restrictions

However I suggested he discuss and confirm this with claims

Category

Rehabilitation

☐ Privileged and Confidential

Subject

09/11 pc EP

Description

Spoke to Jack

He agrees W gets anxious easily regarding the vaccination, on many facebook groups, definitely impacting his fear and possibly also his recovery

Jack thinks psychologist is a good idea; he will send through a suggestion

The psych is also a cyclist

Sees Muris again Friday 2 weeks

Will provided an update as to current status with Muris' treatment
2 sessions so far

**Please refer to email to follow with some further detail from psych

Possible diagnosis of Somatic Symptom Disorder
Different to Health Anxiety

Will handing over to Simon, Simon will be back in touch, possible cc

As you know I did a one off 1 hour session with Muris today to offer some additional insight into his treatment and management.

Here are some summary points

- Was making some progress
- Set back with stress regarding vaccine mandate
- Further set back following covid infection
- Fixed beliefs regarding spike protein as cause of symptoms
- Potential that this is increasing stress and adding to symptoms
- He has had a large loss of function following the commencement of his symptoms, with understandable stress and anxiety, which I think has become a factor - although not necessarily the only factor- in the maintenance of his symptoms

Ongoing Psychology input will be helpful, hopefully to allow Muris to better understand his condition but also to offer some insight into how flexible Muris' thinking is around his condition.

Gradual, meaningful physical rehab is helpful in this space. Muris is currently not interested in engaging with this, he plans to reach out to Jack E once his symptoms have improved a little bit more. He is open to the idea of light home exercises such as

- Tai chi
- Exercise bike at home

Description

Seen him once online

Seeing again tomorrow

Somatic Symptom Disorder

Complex

Not living a normal life

Stuck at home

Online again tomorrow

He feels he has an undiagnosed medical issue

His symptoms are real to him

He will give me more of n update after tomorrow

Muris also informed me he has started seeing a naturopath and from what he told me it would appear the comments (or at least how he has perceived the comments) from the Naturopath are reinforcing that something is wrong with him.

Muris again ended the call asking me if I was aware of any other claimants with this condition.

I think it's going to be quite difficult to challenge Muris' mindset on this Maria. Let me know if you would like to discuss further. Thanks.

Following email from Simon, discussed contents of his report and Muris' condition.

Simon said the prognosis isn't good. He has significant psychological barriers. From his experience of this condition, it's very difficult for the worker to see past it. He still needs to build trust with Muris and he is finding the fact he hasn't come in for an appointment as a barrier. I advised Simon that I would be happy to cover a taxi for Muris to attend his rooms if it would make it easier for him to attend considering his wife is so close to her due date. Simon said he would remember that but thinks it may be some time before he can get Muris to agree to come in as he is barely leaving the house. Right now, his mum and wife are doing everything for him. I expressed concern that this behaviour is entrenched and how it would affect his personal relationships especially since they are expecting in a few months. Simon agreed and said that essentially, the family are treating him as their baby. He feels it's important to get the GP on board as he trusts her for them to try to move forward.

He stated it is important not to dismiss how he feels. His physical symptoms are very real to him, and this completely takes over their lives. I asked Simon if his physically symptoms are a manifestation of his psychological condition. He said it may be but from his experience, those with this condition cannot see that. He said his GP is key in his recovery.

I advised Simon that I sent an email to Muris detailing my concerns about the number of treatments he has had with his GP and advised him of not being able to find much on the internet about her but noticed she appears more aligned with a naturopath than traditional GP. I advised him that so far there have been 83 sessions with the GP. Simon was shocked about this amount. I am concerned there is a co-dependent relationship. I told Simon that Muris didn't take being questioned about his GP well and I was going to give him a little time and contact him next week to discuss the GP appointments. I will keep meeting the expenses but need proof that they are aligned to his claim. I will also try to contact his GP to discuss. I am not having much luck with obtaining written information from her. I also said that with regards to the holistic medications he takes I don't have evidence on the file that this supports his injury, the evidence is otherwise, and I have advised Muris of this and will await Dr Newmans' report before making any final decisions. Simon agreed he did take a lot of this type of medication, and he believes it is doing him benefit. I also advised Simon that his IM is due to cease in November and he is still incapacitated 2 days a week. I said the WCC states 3 non-consecutive days and he is actually working consecutive days which I have an issue with as we are not aligning with the GPs recommendations.

Simon and I agreed for me not to send out his report to Muris as Simon is worried how he will take it. He will contact his GP and discuss next week and check in with me. I will then release the report to Muris and Dr Kau. I confirmed with Simon that I have already released his report to IME Dr Newman.

Simon is aware Muris wants to cease seeing him and he is unhappy

Muris sent an email

Simon has tried contacting the GP but she hasn't replied

Simon agrees it would be helpful for Muris to meet with him to discuss

Simon said it can be difficult for people to understand the condition and get treatment

But he points out that doing what he doing isn't working

Simon thought that the report was not yet going to be provided to Muris, wanted GP buy in first