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Krankschreibung — Medical Leave in Germany

Medical leave in Germany is mandatory from day 4 of illness and sent electronically to your doctor. Your employer pays 100% of salary for 6 weeks, then health insurance covers approximately 70% of gross income.

Deutsche Begriffe: Krankschreibung | Arbeitsunfähigkeitsbescheinigung | AU | Krankmeldung | Entgeltfortzahlung

Krankschreibung — Medical Leave

How does it work?

- 1. Days 1-3** — you can be sick without a certificate (depends on your contract!)
- 2. From day 4** — you must have Krankschreibung from a doctor
- 3.** The certificate is sent electronically to your employer and Krankenkasse

What do you need to do?

Step 1: Inform your employer

- **IMMEDIATELY** in the morning (phone, SMS, email)
- Tell them you're sick and for how long (approximately)
- You do NOT have to say WHAT you're sick with

Step 2: Go to the doctor

- Call to make an appointment
- You'll receive Arbeitsunfähigkeitsbescheinigung (AU)
- Since 2023: electronic AU — your doctor sends it directly

How much money do you get?

Period	Who pays	Amount
Week 1-6	Employer	100% of salary
From week 7	Krankenkasse	~70% gross (max 90% net)

Krankengeld you can receive for max **78 weeks** within 3 years (same illness).

Can I leave the house?

YES, if it doesn't harm your health:

- You can go to the pharmacy
- You can go for a walk
- You can do shopping

NO, you cannot:

- Work (also from home)
- Do sports (unless your doctor recommended it)
- Go on holiday

Important!

⚠ **Your employer can send a control inspection (MDK)** — you must be at home during the hours stated on your certificate or have a good reason.

Extension of sick leave

If you don't recover:

- Go to the doctor BEFORE your current certificate expires
- You'll receive an extension (Folgebescheinigung)