

Why do we have to charge for these services?

Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The NHS provides most health services to people free of charge, but there are some exceptions. Prescription charges have existed since 1951. Sometimes a charge is made because the service is not covered by the NHS; for example Medical Reports for Insurance Companies.

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

The Government's contract with GPs covers medical services to NHS patients. Sometimes the only reason that a GP is asked to provide information is because they hold a position of trust in the community, or because an insurance company wants to be sure that the information provided to them is true and correct.

Examples of Non-NHS services which GPs can charge their NHS patients:

- Accident/sickness insurance certificates and reports
- Certain travel/holiday vaccinations
- Private medical insurance reports
- Reports for 'fitness to start a diet regime.'
- Medicals for HGV/Taxi/PSV
- Elderly Driver Medicals
- Holiday Cancellation forms
- Shotgun Certificate Verification
- Driving Licence Forms
- Passport applications
- Private sick notes and letters

Examples of non-NHS services which GPs can charge other institutions:

- Medical reports for an insurance company
- Some reports for the DSS/Benefits Agency
- Examinations of local authority/Ofsted Reports

Why does it take so long for my GP to complete a form or report?

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes the GP away from the care of our NHS patients. Our GPs have a heavy workload—paperwork takes up an increasing amount of time.

I only need a doctor's signature—what is the problem?

When a doctor signs a certificate of report, it is a condition of the Medical Register that they only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete even the simplest of forms, the doctor might have to read a patient's entire medical record.

For More information about charges visit the British Medical Association Website

at: www.bma.org.uk

Access to Medical records	Paid by	Cost
Access to Medical Records under the Data Protection Act 1998`	3 rd Party	50.00
Access to medical records under the Data Protection Act (Solicitor	Solicitor	50.00
Access to medical records under the Data Protection Act 1999 (In Surgery) + 50p per sheet for photocopying	Patient	10.00
Insurance		
General Practitioner Insurance Report	Insurance Co	84.00
Life Insurance Medical Examination	Insurance Co	92.30
Private Medical Insurance Claim	Patient	25.00
Insurance Claim (loan repayment/income protection – simple form)	Patient	25.00
Provision of medical letter to assist with Insurance	Insurance co	40.00

Claim		
Department of Work and Pensions		
Completion of Form DS1500	DWP	17.00
Completion of Factual Report for Disability Living Allowance	DWP	33.50
Completion of Factual Report for Attendance Allowance	DWP	33.50
Occupational Health		
Provision of medical information to assist in pre employment occupational health	Employer	40.00
Provision of medical information to assist in pre employment occupation health – Factual report including opinion of fitness	Employer	75.00
Pre employment medical (30 minutes)	Employer	75.00
Army – pre employment medical	Army	65.00
Army recruitment – provision of medical notes after acceptance into armed forces	Army	50.00
Completion of student nurse occupational health form	University	33.50
Ofsted Form	Patient	35.00
Ill health Retirement pension form – factual statement No opinion of fitness	Patient	40.00
Ill health retirement pension form – factual statement plus opinion of fitness	Patient	75.00
Driving Medicals		
HGV	Patient	95.00
PSV	Patient	95.00
Taxi driver	Patient	95.00
DVLA fitness to drive medical	DVLA	36.50
Holiday & Travel reports		
Passport	Patient	25.00
Fitness to fly certificate	Patient	25.00
Travel report	Patient	25.00
Holiday cancellation certificate	Patient	25.00
Student exam for Israel	Patient	50.00
Yellow Fever	Patient	70.00
Power of Attorney	Patient	120.00