

## Why GPs Charge Fees

### Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The National Health Service provides most health care to most people free of charge, but there are exceptions. In many cases it is because the service is not covered by the NHS, for example medical reports for insurance companies.

### Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

It is important to understand that GPs are not employed by the NHS, they are self-employed, and they need to cover their costs – staff, buildings, heating, lighting etc – in the same way as any small business. The NHS covers these costs for NHS work, but not for non-NHS work, the fee has to cover the doctor's costs.

### 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
- Private medical insurance reports
- Reports for 'fitness to start a diet regime'
- Medicals for HGV/Taxi
- Holiday cancellation forms

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

- Medical reports for an insurance company
- Some reports for the Department of Work and Pensions in relation to benefits

Please see our fees list for more information.

### Why does it sometimes take my GP a long time to complete a form?

Time spent completing reports and writing letters takes the GP away from medical care for NHS patients. GPs have very heavy workloads and paperwork is taking up more and more clinical time. Even if your form only requires a doctor's signature, a GP may have to check your entire medical record in order to comply with General Medical Council requirements to only sign something which they know to be true.

### How much will I be charged?

Please see the fees list for the most common services. In some cases a charge is higher depending on the complexity of a patient's medical conditions and how long it may take the GP to collate all the necessary information.

**Payment should be made when the form or request is made. Appointments for medicals will only be made once payment is received. Payment for services can be made by cash or cheque. There will be no refund in case of dissatisfaction with the doctor's professional opinion.**

## Portugal Place Health Centre - Private Fees List for Patients

(last updated 25/05/2018)

**Payment should be made when the form or request is made. Appointments for private medicals will require payment at the reception desk before the medical is carried out. Payment for services can be made by cash or cheque. There will be no refund in case of dissatisfaction with the doctor's professional opinion.**

Private Sick Note	£25
Holiday Insurance/Cancellation Form	£25
Critical Illness/Injury Insurance Form	£25
Fitness To Travel Certificate	£25
Free from Infection Forms	£25
Passport Form and Photo	£30
Driving Licence Photo	£25
Camp America	£25 (form only) / £90 (including medical)
Fitness to attend gym/ start diet eg. LighterLife	£30
HGV/Taxi Medical	£90
Pre-Employment Medical	From £90
Childminder OFSTED health declaration	£87.50
Citizens Advice Bureau Report	£25
Seat Belt Exemption Certificate	£40/£90 (No Medical/Medical)
Firearms Certificate Renewal	£50
Letter in Support of Housing	North Tyneside Council area – we will only provide information if the council have formally requested this. A £25 may be charged. Newcastle Council area – This may have no effect on a housing decision however if a patient still requires a letter there will be a £25 charge.
To Whom It May Concern Letter: Short letter	£25
More detailed letter	£200 per hour
Private Blood Tests	£20 appointment fee plus fee per test (fees available on request)
Blood Test to Determine Blood Group	We do not offer this service.

Subject Access Requests i.e. copies of the information we hold about you, in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).	Free unless a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive in which case we will charge a "reasonable fee", based on the administrative costs of complying with the request.
Application for a deceased individual's health records under The Access to Health Records Act 1990	We do not hold records of deceased patients. Please contact Primary Care Support England.

Death Certificate	Free
Med 3 (fitness to work certificate after day 7 of sickness period)	Free
Prescription Exemption Form	Free
Council Tax Exemption Form	Free
Concessionary Travel Pass	Free

**For any forms not listed please provide us with a copy of the form and we will be able to advise you further.**