

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 27/04/2016)

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 Form	£25
Fitness to attend gym/ start diet eg. LighterLife	£30
HGV/Taxi Medical	£90
Childminder OFSTED health declaration	£87.50
Citizens Advice Bureau Report	£25
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 £20 per test
Blood Test to Determine Blood Group	We do not offer this service.

Access to health record under the Data Protection Act 1998	
<u>Patient access to their own health records where no copy is required</u>	
Health records held totally on computer	£10
Health records held in part on computer and in part manually	£10
Health records held manually	£10 (unless the records have been added to in the last 40 days in which case viewing should be free)
<u>Copies of health records of living patients:</u>	
Health records held on computer	£10
Health records held in part on computer and in part manually	Up to £50 (fee includes 35p per sheet copy charge)
Health records held manually	Up to £50 (fee includes 35p per sheet copy charge)
Summary Printout of Medical Record e.g. Immunisation List/Personal Independence Payment Application	£10

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.

Private Fees List for Third Parties

(last updated 27/04/2016)

Private Work Type	Cost	Payment required first?
DS1500	£17	No. Send immediately
Attendance Allowance Form	£33.50	No. Send immediately
ATOS PIP Form	£33.50	No. Send immediately
ESA (employment and support allowance)	Free	n/a

Court of Protection Form (COP 3) including an assessment. Requires a double appointment or counts as two home visits.	£150	If from a solicitor then payment first. If from the council then send immediately.
Capacity Assessment for Lasting Power of Attorney	£150	Payment first
GP report for Insurance Application (ePMA/GPR)	£104	Payment required first
Supplementary Information Report (targeted report)	£50	Payment required first
Medical Report	Varies – KI/CV to decide fee on case by case basis	Payment required first
Health Report from Insurance Company	£90	Payment first

DVLA Form (no medical)	£40	No. Send immediately
DVLA Form (including medical)	£85	No. Send immediately
Adoption Medical	£73.86	No. Send immediately
Army Questionnaire	£65	No. Send immediately
CICA (Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority) Form	£39	No. Send immediately

Subject Access Requests	£50	Payment first
Police request to access Medical Records where disclosure is for the purposes of the prevention or detection of a crime. The police representative must demonstrate that the police authority require the information for the purposes of investigating a crime and have statutory exemption from the fee provisions under the Crime and Disorder Act.	Free	n/a

For other forms or reports - £200 per hour.