

Fees for Examinations and Certificates (non NHS)

Why we charge fees

The NHS provides most health care free of charge. However there are a number of other services for which fees can be charged. These are mainly for services not covered by the NHS, such as medical reports for insurance companies.

Doctors are involved in a whole range of non-medical work, largely on the basis that they occupy a position of trust within the community, and are in the position to verify the accuracy of information. If a GP signs a certificate or completes a report, it is a professional duty that s(he) checks the accuracy of such information. This may involve examining the patient's **entire** medical record.

Non-NHS Charges

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 GP's can charge their NHS patients:

- Accident/sickness insurance certificates and reports
- Certain travel vaccinations
- Private medical insurance reports
- Reports for 'fitness to start a diet regime.'
- Medicals for HGV/Taxi/PSV
- Elderly Driver Medicals
- Holiday Cancellation forms
- Driving Licence Forms

Examples of non-NHS services which GP's 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 GP's have a heavy workload—paperwork takes up an increasing amount of time. As a general guide please allow 28 days for completion of the paperwork.

I only need a doctors 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.

What certificates/information do I have to pay for?

ACCESS TO RECORDS UNDER DATA PROTECTION ACT	WHO PAYS	CHARGE
Computerised records	Patient	up to £10.00
Manual records or combination of manual/computer records	Patient/Solicitor	up to £50.00
CERTIFICATES AND FORMS	WHO PAYS	CHARGE
Straight forward certificate of fact	Patient	£18.00
Private Sick Note (any sick note within 7 days is private)	Patient	£20.00
To Whom it May concern (letter outlining circumstances and or condition, includes fitness to undertake diet regime and fitness to undertake activities e.g. diving, jumping, flying)	Patient	up to £42.00
Letters for airlines regarding medication	Patient	£16.00
Medical examination and report for HGV/LGV/PSV/Taxi. and for elderly drivers	Patient	£110.00
Report no examination (20 to 30 mins)	Patient	£60.00
Seat belt exemption	Patient	£20.00
Driving licence photograph countersignature	Patient	£25.00
Holiday cancellation certificate	Patient	£25.00
Ofsted application for childminder	Patient	£91.00
Fitness to travel certificate – pre-existing illness	Patient	£27.00
As a rule of thumb, we charge £30 per 10 minute “slot” for non NHS work		