

## Private Fees and Charges

### Why do GPs charge fees?

The NHS provides health care, free of charge, but there are exceptions: prescription charges have existed since 1951, and there are a number of other services for which fees are charged, for example, medical reports for insurance companies.

It is important to understand that GPs are self-employed and offer their services to the NHS, and they have to cover their costs – staff, buildings, heating, lighting, etc – in the same way as any small business.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge their NHS patients include:

- Accident/sickness insurance certificates
- Certain travel vaccinations
- Private medical insurance reports

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

- Medical reports for an insurance company
- Some reports for the DSS/Benefits Agency
- Examinations of local authority employees
- Reporting regarding joining the Army

### Where do fees come from?

The British Medical Association (BMA) suggests fees for non-NHS work, which is not covered under a GPs NHS contract, to help GPs set their own professional fees. However, these fees are guidelines only, not recommendations, and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates suggested.

### Why can it take a long time to get a form completed?

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes the GP away from the medical care of his or her patients. Most GPs have a very heavy NHS workload, and this paperwork is done at times aside for it.

### I only need the doctor's signature – why do I need to wait?

When a doctor signs a certificate or completes a report, it is a condition of remaining on the Medical Register that they only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete even the simplest of forms, therefore, the doctor might have to check the patients' entire medical record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor.

### How can I keep costs down?

- Not all documents need signature by a doctor, for example passport applications. You can ask another person in a position of trust to sign such documents free of charge.
- Plan in advance. Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight. You should expect the form to take up to 4 weeks to be processed.

### How do I pay?

Payment can be made by cash, card or BACs. Prepayment is required for all non-NHS services.

**Fees and Charges for non-NHS Reports and Examinations**  
**Any other requests not listed, please contact the surgery for advice**  
**(From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023)**

<b>Travel:</b>	
Holiday cancellation form	£35
Fitness for Visa	£30
<b>Certificates/Letters without examination:</b>	
Straight forward letter of fact	£30
Fitness to use gym	£30
Duplicate sick note	£5
Childminder/Ofsted Report (form only)	£40
Childminder/Ofsted Report (form and examination)	£90
Disability Student Allowance Form	£25
<b>Private insurance forms:</b>	
Insurance claim form	£35
Private referral	£15
<b>Medical Examinations:</b>	
DVLA (HGV/LGV/PSV/Taxi/Elderly Driver)	£105
Sports	£90
Firearm/Shotgun Certificate	£50
Camp America	£65
Army form	£65
<b>Adoption &amp; Fostering:</b>	
Form 1HA	£58.12
Form M/B	£44.95
Forms C, D, YP, AME	£97.91
Form AH (Requires medical)	£80.47
Form AH2 (Update – no medical required)	£26.54
<b>Legal Services:</b>	
Power of Attorney – medical examination & report (Home visit)	£125
Power of Attorney – medical examination & report (Practice visit)	£90
Power of Attorney – report	£60
Power of Attorney – witness	£35
Capacity Assessment – medical examination & report (Home visit)	£125
Capacity Assessment – medical examination & report (Practice visit)	£100
Capacity Assessment – certificate only	£30
<b>Insurance Report:</b>	
Full Medical Report	£104
Targeted Medical Report	£104
Supplementary Medical Report	£27