



Darwen Healthcare

Where your health Matters

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Non NHS Consultation Fees

Why do GPs sometimes 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.

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.

Where do fees comes from?

The British Medical Association (BMA) suggests fees for non-NHS work which is not covered under a GP's 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 set 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 patient's entire medical record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor

What is going to be the charge?

The BMA recommends that GPs tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and how much. It is up to the individual doctor to decide how much to charge, but the BMA produces lists of suggested fees which many doctors use (see over page)

How can I keep costs down?

- Plan in advance.
- Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight. You should expect the form(s) to take up to 3 weeks to be processed.
- This list is for Information only and it is not Intended to be exhaustive of all charges that may apply.
- Payment is required by the practice prior to forms being completed.
- Please note we are a cashless site and payment should be made via a Bank Card.

Notes

Description	Cost
To Whom it May Concern Letter	£40.00
Private Sick Note	£30.00
Vaccination Letter	£30.00
Accident / Sickness / Insurance Claim Form	£50.00
Fire Arms License	£50.00
Private Medical Insurance claim Form	£50.00
Life Insurance Form	£104.00
Private Prescription	£15.00
Completion of Child Minder Health Form / Adoption /Fostering	£120.00
HGV Medicals, Taxi, Employment Medicals	£140.00
Referral for Private Care Forms	£40.00
Access to computer records	Free