

List of Private Fees from 13 Aug 2018

Please contact the surgery to confirm fee before requesting reports/medicals.

- No report/medical certificate will be done until payment is received.
- Payment **MUST** be made in advance.
- We are now able to payment by card (not American Express) personal cheque or cash.
- For cash, we will require **EXACT** payment. We do not keep change on surgery premises.
- **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK A STANDARD APPOINTMENT** for private reports or medicals.
- Report requests should be left at reception and a doctor will complete for collection. We may need to contact you if further information is needed – so please ensure we have up to date contact details.
- Private medicals need to be organised separately from standard appointments: please speak to reception to arrange this.

Sick notes/prescriptions

Private sick note	£20.00
Private prescription for travel (malaria)	£15.00

Reports

Short letter e.g. confirmation of registration	£20.00
Proof of Residency	£20.00
Vaccination certificate (e.g. yellow fever exemption)	£20.00
Housing letter	£40.00
Firearms report	£60.00
Fitness to travel/fitness to fly	£40.00
Fitness to attend gym/health club/sports event*	£40.00
Fitness to work/study/appear on stage*	£40.00
Private medical insurance claim form*	£40.00
Holiday cancellation certificate/claim form	£40.00
*If examination needed	£60.00
Other insurance form	£60.00
Other reports	Fee available on request

Medical Examinations

LGV/PCV/ taxi medical examination	£100.00
(Optician report must be provided)	
Pre employment medical examination**	£100.00
Emigration medical + organisation of private tests**	£100.00
Life assurance medical examination**	£100.00
Private medical consultation (only for patients who are not eligible for NHS treatment)	£ 80.00
Sports medical examination	To discuss with Doctor
Other medical examinations	Fee available on request
** Price may vary according to the complexity of report	

Insurance Reports (as per BMA rates)

Life assurance initial report	£102.20
Supplementary reports	£26.57

WHY DO GPs SOMETIMES CHARGE FEES?

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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: prescription charges have existed since 1951, and there are a number of other services for which fees are charged. Sometimes the charge is made to cover some of the cost of treatment, for example, dental fees; in other 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 have 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 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. In recent years, more and more organisations have been involving doctors in a whole range of non-medical work. Sometimes the only reason that GPs are asked is because they are in a position of trust in the community, or because an insurance company or employer wants to be sure that information provided is true and accurate.

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

- accident/sickness insurance certificates
- certain travel vaccinations
- private medical insurance reports

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

- medical reports for an insurance company
- some reports for the DSS/Benefits Agency
- examinations of local authority employees

Is it true that the BMA sets fees for non-NHS work?

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

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 workload - and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time, so many GPs find they have to take some paperwork home at night and weekends.

I only need the doctor's signature - what is the problem?

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 with the General Medical Council or even the Police.

What will I be charged?

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. Surgeries often have lists of fees on the waiting room wall based on these suggested fees.

What can I do to help?

- 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.
- If you have several forms requiring completion, present them all at once and ask your GP if he or she is prepared to complete them all at once as a 'job lot' at a reduced price.
- Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight: urgent requests may mean that a doctor has to make special arrangements to process the form quickly, and this will cost more.