

FEES—

Please note that all fees are subject to change.

Driving	Currently
HGV/PSV Medical	£80.00
Taxi Medical	£80.00
Elderly Driving Medical	£80.00
Driving license application countersign	£15.00
Certificates & Forms	Currently
BUPA claim form	£30.00
Freedom of infection certificate	£20.00
Private sick certificate	£15.00
Shotgun license	£25.00
Sickness/accident claim form	£15.00 - £30.00
Simple insurance certificate	£15.00
Letter to whom it may concern	£15.00
Fitness for university	£75.00
Examination sick notes (typed letter)	£25.00

Access to Records

	Currently
Access to electronic records	£10.00
Manual record or combination	£50.00 max
Photocopy of notes per side	0.35p

Medical reports & examinations

	Currently
Power of attorney	£100.00
Mental capacity certificate	£60.00
Mental capacity including examination	£100.00
Court of protection report	£100.00
Sport/activity examination	£80.00

Private Patients

	Currently
Blood (test price)	£20.00 - £30.00
Blood group	£27.50
Prescription	£15.00
Smear test	£15.00 + lab costs
DNA (first patient)	£50.00
DNA subsequent patients	£10.00
Paternity testing	£20.00
Foreign visitors	£37.50 per 10 mins
Foreign visitors—home visit	£80.00

Patient information leaflet Understanding Fee's

Please note:

This leaflet has been compiled with information by the British Medical Association (BMA) to help explain why GP's may charge fees.



Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The National Health Service provides most healthcare to most people free of charge but there are some exceptions—prescriptions. These 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 providing copies of health records or producing medical reports for insurance companies.

Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

It is important to understand that many GP's are not employed by the NHS; they are self-employed and they have to cover their costs ie: staff, building, heating, lighting etc - in the same way as any small business. The NHS covers these costs for NHS work, not for non-NHS work, the fees charged by the GP's contribute towards their costs.

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

The governments contract with GP's covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of on-going medical treatment. In recent years, however, more and more organisations have been involving doctors in a whole range of non-medical work. Sometimes the only reasons that GP's are asked is because they are in a position of trust in the community, or because an insurance company/ employers wants to ensure that information provided to them is true and accurate.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GP's can charge their own NHS patients are

- Accident / sickness certificates for insurance purposes
- School fee and holiday insurance certificates
- Reports for health clubs to certify that patients are fit to exercise

Examples of non-NHS services for which GP's can charge other institutions are:

- Life assurance and income protection reports for insurance companies
- Reports for the Department for Work & Pensions in connection with disability living allowance and attendance allowance
- Medical reports for local authorities in connection with adoption & fostering

Do GP's have to do non-NHS work for their patients?

With certain limited exceptions, for example a GP confirming that one of their patients is not fit for jury service, GP's do not have to carry out non-NHS work on behalf of their patients. However GP's will always attempt to assist their patients with the completion of forms.

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

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes GP's away from patient medical care. GP's have an increasing workload so some have to take their paperwork home at night or weekends.

I only need the doctors signature—what is the problem?

When a doctor signs a certificate or completes a form, it is a condition of remaining on the medical register that they only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete the simplest forms, therefore, the doctor might have to check the patients entire medical record. Inaccuracy can have serious consequences for GP's with the doctor's regulatory body (General Medical Council) or even the police.

What will I be charged?

The BMA recommend that GP's tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and what the fee will be. It is up to the individual doctors to decide how much they will charge. We at Townsend House have a list of fees available which are based on BMA suggested fees.

What can I do to help?

Not all documents need a doctors signature, 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/ she is prepared to complete them at the same time.

Do not expect your GP to process your form overnight; urgent requests may mean that a doctor has to make special arrangements to process the form quickly, and this may cost more.