

Fees For Non-NHS Work

FAQs Regarding Private And Professional Fees For Non-NHS Work

Below are a collection of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** regarding non-NHS work fees; followed by [the charges our GPs make](#) for various services that fall into this category.

The information can be verified on the [BMA website](#) and, as with all information on our website, it is best to check with us to make sure that the prices given are current and correct.

Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

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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, providing copies of health records or producing medical reports for insurance companies.

Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

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It is important to understand that many 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 fees charged by GPs contribute towards their costs.

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

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The Government's contract with GPs covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of ongoing 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 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 ensure that information provided to them is true and accurate.

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

- accident/sickness certificates for insurance purposes.
- reports for health clubs to certify that patients are fit to exercise.
- pre-employment medicals, as requested by employers.

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

- life assurance and income protection reports for insurance companies.
- reports for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in connection with disability living allowance and attendance allowance.
- medical reports for local authorities in connection with adoption and fostering.

Do GPs have to do non-NHS work for their patients?

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With certain limited exceptions, for example a GP confirming that one of their patients is not fit for jury service, GPs do not have to carry out non-NHS work on behalf of their patients.

Whilst GPs will always attempt to assist their patients with the completion of forms, for example for insurance purposes, they are not required to do such non-NHS work.

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

The BMA suggests fees that GPs may charge their patients for non-NHS work (i.e. work not covered under their contract with the NHS) in order to help GPs set their own professional fees. However, the fees suggested by the BMA are intended for guidance only; they are not recommendations and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates they suggest.

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

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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 (the doctors' regulatory body) or even the Police.

What will I be charged?

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The BMA recommends that GPs tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and what the fee will be. It is up to individual doctors to decide how much they will 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?

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- Not all documents need a 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 at the same time to speed up the process.
- 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.

ANNAT BANK PRACTICE FEES FOR NON-NHS SERVICES

Fees for Non-NHS Services



	Fee for Organisations	Discounted Fees for Individuals
Certificates and forms		
Private sicknote	£30.00	Private sick notes should rarely if ever be required
Passport form/photograph	We no longer offer this service does not require doctor	
Driving Licence photograph	We no longer offer this service does not require doctor	
Provident association claim form (e.g. BUPA/PPP)	£90.00 (insurance company typically expects patient to pay)	n/a
Sickness/accident insurance benefit claim form	£90.00	
Medical examinations and reports		
(Fee for medical consultation – private patient - per hour - theoretical	£150.00	

Private Patient Consultation (ten minutes)	£50.00 – GP £35.00 – P/Nurse (does not include costs of special investigations or private prescription)	
Pre-Employment Medicals; HGV, PSV, Taxi Driver; Elderly Driver Fitness Certificate; Racing Driver Fitness Certificate; Fitness For Sports; Fitness to Attend School; Seat Belt Exemption; etc as follows:		
Certificate note (0 - 10 minutes)	£30.00	
Letter/extract from records (15 minutes)	£30.00	
Proforma report, no exam (20 minutes)	£60.00	
Detailed written report, no exam (30 minutes; 45 minutes)	£90.00	Usually paid by insurance company
Examination and report – e.g. PSV, HGV, Seafarers (30 minutes)	£180.00	
AW1 Examination at home/Guardian Forms	£180.00	
AMW1 completed with no examination	£90.00	

	Fee for Organisations	Discounted Fees for Individuals
Travel abroad		
Course of vaccinations for travel abroad (non-NHS), plus cost of vaccine		Standard health advice will be free. Common vaccines supplied as NHS scripts.
Vaccination certificate	£30.00	
Holiday cancellation certificate	£60.00	
Fitness to travel certificate	£60.00	
Freedom from infection certificate	£30.00	
Proof of medication for travel	£30.00	Simple printout of repeat list = £5.00 Typed document on headed notepaper = £20.00
Miscellaneous		
Private photocopy (per page)		£2.00
Witnessing the signing of Power of Attorney	We do not offer this service	We do not offer this service
Private Medical ECG and report	£180.00	Not recommended.
Firearms	£90.00	
Community Service	£40.00 (Paid by Criminal Justice)	
Chest x-ray	£83.00 +VAT for referral	
Adoption & Fostering	£28.70 for local authority(Angus/Dundee will only pay)	
BAAF Forms	£89.00	
AH1 For Carers	£60.00	£28.70 for local authority (Angus/Dundee will only pay)
AH2 For Carers	£50.00	“

Kinship Forms	£60.00	
No Medical Certificates will be issued for tattoos and piercings.		