



Private Fees and Charges



Why do GP's charge fees? Your questions answered

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 isn't covered by the NHS, for example, medical reports for insurance companies, claims on private health insurance and other letters and forms which require the doctor to review the patient's medical records.

It is important to understand that GP's are not employed by the NHS, they are self-employed, and they have to cover their costs which include staff, buildings, heating, lighting etc. in the same way as any small business.

The NHS pays the doctor for specific NHS work, but for non NHS the fee has to cover the doctor's costs

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

The government's contract with GP's 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 GP's 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 GP's can charge their patients

- Certain travel vaccinations
- Private medical insurance reports
- Holiday cancellation forms
- Referral for private care forms
- Letters requested by or on behalf of, the patient
- In certain instances fitness to work forms

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/her patients. Most GP's have a very heavy workload, the majority of GP's work can add up to 60 hours a week and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time. In addition non-NHS work must be undertaken outside of NHS contracted time.

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. Therefore in order to complete even the simplest of forms, the doctor needs to check the patient's entire record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor, with the General Medical Council or even the Police.

How are charges decided?

The British Medical Association (BMA) recommends that GPs tell patients in advance if they will be charged. It is up to the individual practice to decide how much to charge. The BMA has in the past provided guidance for GPs in setting their fees. This is less common now and GPs are able to set their own fees to ensure that their costs in delivering the services are covered. Time spent completing private reports and undertaking private medical examinations are generally done outside of normal working hours as an extra commitment to a GPs workload. Wordsworth Practice carries out periodic reviews of charges at other surgeries both locally and nationally and endeavours to follow a fair charging policy.



Private Fees

Wordsworth Health Centre



The services shown are not provided under the National Health Service (NHS) contract and the following fees will be charged. If you have any questions relating to these fees, please address them to your Doctor or the Practice Manager before requesting the service.

Fees are charged for the following services:	Charges in 2017/2018
Access to records under Data Protection Act Charges:	
Copy of Brief computerised records	£10 - £30 (depending on detail)
Copy of Full manual records or combination of manual/computer records	£50
Individual photocopies of Medical/paper notes (e.g. Copies for own use)	50p per page
Copy of Blood results/urine results/etc.	£1.00 per result
Administration Charge for sending by recorded delivery	£8.00+ (depending on weight)
Certificates, forms and letter:	
Straightforward statement of facts	£17.50
General letter 'To whom it may concern' or 'fitness to' work	£30.00
Private Sick Note (any sick note within 7 days is private)	£30.00
Immunisation Summary Certificate	£17.50
Holiday Cancellation Certificate	£40.00
Fostering Form AH	£90 - £150
OFSTEAD Health Declaration/Child Minder	£90.00
Employment:	
Employment, Pre-Employment Medical and Report	£165.00
Employment, Pre-Employment Report (No Examination)	£100
Insurance:	
Medical Insurance Report or extract from Medical Records	£80.00 - £100.00
Medical Assessment Report & Medical	£165.00
Medical Assessment Report without Medical Examination	£100.00
Driving:	
Medical and Report (e.g. Elderly, HGV, PSV, PCO and Taxi)	£150.00
Driver Insurance Form - with Medical (e.g. taxi renewal)	£95.00
Driver Insurance Form - without Medical	£55.00
Public Carriage Office Form (DVLA D4)	£150.00
Travel:	
Private Prescription (Travel)	£17.50
Fitness to Travel	£30.00 - £60.00
Fitness to Travel Statement with Medical	£150.00
Cancellation of Holiday Claim Form	£30.00
Vaccination Charges: Vaccinations required for travel that cannot be Given as an NHS service will need a private prescription.	
Meningitis ACWY	£45.00
Other:	
Solicitors Report	£100.00
Solicitors Examination and Report	£135.00
School requests for information	£30.00
Blue badge	£15.00

