Why GPs sometimes charge fees

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?

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:

* accident or sickness certificates for insurance purposes
* school fee and holiday insurance certificates
* reports for health clubs to certify that patients are fit to exercise

Source of Information

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/fees/fee-finder-what-to-charge-your-patients>

<https://www.medeconomics.co.uk/private_fees>

**Non–NHS charges to Patients**

**From 1 April 2020 *VAT Registration Number: 878 -6695 -39***

|  |  |  |
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|  | **Total cost** **(inc. VAT @20%)** | |
| Private Sick Note / Certificate | £30.00 | E |
| Private Prescription | £25.00 | E |
| Freedom from infection certificate | £30.00 | SR |
| Character reference | £50.00 | SR |
| Paternity & DNA sample taking fee by GP | £50.00 | SR |
| Paternity & DNA sample taking fee by Nurse | £17.50 | SR |
| Fitness to exercise cert/letter | £30.00 | SR |
| Under 16 sick note for school | £10.00 | E |
| Fitness to attend school or work - simple letter | £30.00 | SR |
| Lighter Life – first assessment and form | £50.00 | E |
| Lighter Life – follow up BP check | £10.00 | E |
| Housing report/letter | £30.00 | SR |
| TWIMC letter | £30.00 | SR |

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| **Holidays/Travel** |  |  |
| Holiday Ins cancel/claim (simple) | £30.00 | E |
| Holiday Ins cancel/claim (complicated) | £50.00 | E |
| International vaccination certificate | £25.00 | SR |
| Fitness to travel (simple form/letter) | £30.00 | SR |
| Airline request/medications etc. | £30.00 | SR |
| Yellow Fever (to be paid on arrival) | £62.00 | E |
| Rabies x 3 (to be paid on arrival) | £180.00 | E |
| Hep B x 3 (for travel, to be paid on arrival) | £140.00 | E |
| Hep B x 3 (for employment, invoice to employer) | £140.00 | E |
| Exemption from Yellow Fever cert | £25.00 | E |
|  |  |  |
| **Access to Records \* statutory fees** |  |  |
| Access to Medical Record (Via on-line) | Free | E |
| Access to hard copy of Medical record | Free | E |
| 2nd Copy – 20p per sheet |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Driving** |  |  |
| Driving licence photo verification | £36.00 | SR |
| HGV or bus driver medical & report/form | £125.00 | SR |
| PSV/taxi/racing driver/elderly medical & report/form | £125.00 | SR |
| Driving – report without medical (including elderly) | £50.00 | SR |
| Seat belt exemption report only | £50.00 | E |
| Blue Badge report/letter (at GP discretion) | £25.00 | E |
| DVLA report | £50.00 | SR |
|  |  |  |
| **Insurance Medicals & Reports** |  |  |
| Pre-employment examination & report | £250.00 | SR |
| Pre-employment report only | £75.00 | SR |
| Fitness for school medical & report | £120.00 | SR |
| Fitness for school report only | £60.00 | SR |
| Fitness for sport/extreme sports medical & report | £125.00 | SR |
| Fitness for sport report only | £75.00 | SR |
| Ofsted declaration (childminder) | £95.00 | SR |
| Other childminding forms | £40.00 | SR |
| Adoption & fostering medical & report (adult) | £91.50 | SR |
| Adoption & fostering report (adult) | £30.00 | SR |
| Adoption & fostering medical & report (child) | £80.00 | E |
| Adoption & fostering report (child) | £30.00 | E |
| Private health insurance claim (form only) | £30.00 | E |
| Sickness/accident insurance benefit (short form only) | £30.00 | E |
| Sickness/accident insurance benefit medical & report | £125.00 | E |
| Sickness/accident insurance benefit (complicated) | £75.00 | E |
|  |  |  |
| **Mental Health** |  |  |
| Mental capacity examination & complicated report | £125.00 | E |
| Mental capacity simple letter/form | £50.00 | E |
| Power of attorney examination & report | £160.00 | SR |
| Power of attorney report | £90.00 | SR |

E = Exempt SR = Standard Rate VAT at 20% as per HMRC regulations