

WHY DO GPs SOMETIMES CHARGE FEES?

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 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?

GPs are not employed by the NHS; they are self-employed and have to cover their costs - staff, buildings, heating etc - in the same way as any small business.

The NHS covers these costs for NHS work, but not for non-NHS work.

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.

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

A GP's NHS work must take priority. 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.

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.



MARLOW MEDICAL GROUP

DETAILS OF FEES AND CHARGES



The Marlow Medical Group
The Doctors House,
Victoria Road,
Marlow,
SL7 1DN

Not all services offered by the practice are available under the NHS. Where patients request non-NHS items or services, a private fee may be payable.

This leaflet lists those fees, which may be payable in advance. This leaflet is for guidance only and costs are subject to change without notice.

Medical Examinations

Private medical	£120
Pre-employment medical	£120
LGV/HGV medical	£120
Emigration medical	£120
Medical and report	£200/hr
ECG with report	£130
Elderly driver medical	£120
Sports medical	£120
Other short medicals	£120

Certificates & Letters

Fitness to travel	£30
Fitness to perform	£30
Fit/Unfit for work	£30
OFSTED report	£30
Other letters/certificates	min. £30

Solicitors Reports

Power of Attorney/Will etc.	£200/hr
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Reports

Insurance report	£35
Holiday cancellation	£35
Accident claim	£35
Private medical claim	£35
Shotgun Certificate	£100

Fees for non-NHS consultations

Nurse Consultation	£25
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Fees for non-NHS nursing procedures*

Dressings	£25
Injection/Inoculation	£25
Venepuncture	£25
Spirometry	£35
Audiometry/Ear syringing	£41
Cervical Smears	£50
Coil Insertion	£135
Minor Operation	£175

****Excluding all medical supplies and laboratory***

If you require this leaflet in a different format or you need further information or assistance, please contact:

Medicals Administrator 01628 405543

Vaccinations

	Price per single dose
Yellow Fever (inc. certificate)	£62
Meningitis ACWY	£70
Hepatitis B*	£40
Paediatric Hepatitis B*	£27
Rabies*	£57
Japanese Encephalitis*	£89
*Course of 3 doses required	
Tick-borne Encephalitis**	£65
**Min of 2 doses required	
Cholera	no charge ⁺
Typhoid	no charge ⁺
Hepatitis A	no charge ⁺
Revaxis (Dip/Tet/Polio)	no charge ⁺

****For NHS patients only – charges are payable for private patients. Contact surgery for details.***

Methods of Payment

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

Prices may be subject to change without notice.

VAT included where necessary.

VAT Registration No. 879 0698 57.