

Longrove Surgery

Fees for Non NHS Services

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 include:

- 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

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

- 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?

With certain limited exceptions (e.g. 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.

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 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 complete some paperwork 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?

A list of our fees can be found overleaf. Please note that this is subject to change.

All fees are at the discretion of the GPs.

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What can I do to help?

- Not all documents need a signature by a doctor. 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.

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

The BMA (British Medical Association) suggest fees that GPs may charge their patients for non-NHS work.

These suggestions influence the fees that we charge for forms, certificates or reports completed by the doctors. A list of our fees can be found overleaf.

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Fees for Non NHS Services

Not all services at the practice are available under the NHS – when a patient requests Non NHS items or services a fee may be payable. This leaflet lists those fees, some of which may be payable in advance and is for guidance only.

All fees are in line with the British Medical Association (BMA) guidance and are subject to change and regular review

Any Non NHS work that is completed can take up to 30 days to process

These services are only available to registered patients.

Adoption Medical – paid by council	£73.86
Pre-Employment Medical/General Health medical certificate	£110.00
HGV/LGV/Taxi medical	£125.00
Private Insurance Medical Claim form (BUPA/AXA etc)	£30.00
Simple form for Dr Signature	£15.00
Fitness to Perform	£30.00
Fitness to Perform (with examination)	£50.00
Letter for Housing/Council	£15.00
Short 'to whom it may concern' Letter eg for fitness to travel, join/cancel gym, airlines, university/school etc	£25.00
Letter for Schools re absence from examinations (see explanation overleaf)	£25.00
Lighter Life/Cambridge Diet forms	£25.00
Blood Pressure check (eg for diet purposes - per appointment)	£20.00
Sports Medical Form (eg diving, pilot, racing driver, marathon – WITHOUT appointment)	£20.00
Sports Medical Form (eg diving, pilot, racing driver, marathon x2 appointments)	£50.00
Holiday Cancellation Forms	£30.00
Ofsted booklet	£30.00
Ofsted booklet (with examination)	£60.00
Tour of Israel/Camp America form	£30.00
Tour of Israel/Camp America form (with examination)	£60.00
Proof of Existence (with one appointment to witness signature)	£20.00
Private Sicknote	£15.00

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We no longer provide/complete:

- ◆ Letters to give authority for staff at schools to administer drugs to children over whom we have no control. Your own word should be adequate. If schools/colleges/organisations want written authorisation then they should write directly to the GP with your signed parental consent.
- ◆ Letters to schools or colleges explaining absences from GCSE or A Level examinations. If the school or college wants written confirmation of illness then they should write directly to the GP with your signed parental consent – the charge for this is £25 (paid by the school or parent/patient).
- ◆ Shotgun Licence Certificates. Seek advice from your Professional Group/Club.
- ◆ Signed photos for driving licences or passports
- ◆ Letters for the UK Border Agency
- ◆ Power of Attorney – please speak to a receptionist for information on local Doctors in the area who can complete these for you.

We will accept payment by Cash, Debit or Credit Card