

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - cont.

Do GP's have to do non-NHS work for their patients?

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.

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

Time spent completing forms takes GP's away from general day to day medical care of patients. Every day is different and we cannot define specific time for filling in forms. All forms will be completed as soon as is reasonably possible.

I only need a signature on a form? Surely that's easy?

When a GP signs a form or certificate, it is a condition of remaining on the medical register that they only sign what they know to be true. Therefore, the doctor may have to check the patients entire medical records before signing. Inaccuracy can have serious consequences for GP's.

I thought the NHS was free at the point of use?

The NHS provides the majority of healthcare to most people free of charge. However, there are some exceptions, such as producing medical reports for patients or insurance companies.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Please give us as much notice as you can of your requirement for a medical examination or report.

Please be precise with your requirements. Informing us that you need a report for an insurance company, when you actually require a full medical exam will lead to disappointment.

Please pay for your examination before your appointment. Failure to do so may result in the examination being cancelled.

Please present at the surgery in plenty of time for your appointment. Failure to attend a medical may attract a charge.



Private Medical Fees

A guide for Patients

This guide has been compiled with information from the BMA (British Medical Association) to help explain why the surgery may charge fees for some items.

Please note: **The fees stated are subject to revision at any time.**

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CHARGEABLE FEES

Driving / Travel

HGV / PSV Medical	£90
Taxi Medical	£90
Elderly Driving Medical	£90
Driving licence applications countersign	£20
Seat Belt Exemption report from notes	£50
Seat Belt Exemption including medical exam	£120
Fitness to drive report from notes	£50
Fitness to travel incl medical exam	£120
Holiday Cancellation insurance report	£50

Certificates & Forms

BUPA Claim Form	£30
Freedom of Infection Certificate	£20
Private Sick Certificate	£15
Shotgun Licence	£50
Sickness / Accident Claim Form	£15 - 50
Letter to whom it may concern	£15
Fitness for University	£40

Access to Records

Request for access to electronic records	£10 -£50
Photocopying / Printing	£0.10 per sheet
Accompanied viewing of record	£50

Medical Reports & Examinations

Power of Attorney	£120
Mental Capacity incl examination	£120
Court or Protection report	£100
Sport / Activity examination	£120
Failure to attend booked medical examination	£40

Private Patients

Blood Test	£20 + £15 per blood test
Blood Group	£27.50
Prescription	£10
Smear Test	£15 + lab costs
Non Resident / Foreign National Consultation	£37.50 per 10 mins
Non Resident / Foreign National Home Visit	£80

Please note: For other services not listed, you will be informed of any costs in advance of your request / appointment.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

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.

What will I be charged?

The BMA recommend that GP's tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and what the fee will be. It is up to the individual doctors to decide how much they will charge. Nearly all the fees Buckfastleigh Medical Centre charge are below the recommended chargeable fees.