

CROSS ROAD SURGERY

Fees for Patient Specific Non-NHS Services

Why do GP's charge fee? Your questions answered.

Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The National Health Service (NHS) 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 is not covered by the NHS, for example, medical reports for insurance companies, claim forms for referral to private care and other letters and forms which require the doctor to review the patient's medical records.

Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

It is important to understand that 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 pays the doctor for specific NHS work, but for non-NHS work the fee has to cover the doctor's costs.

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

The government's contract with GPs 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.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge their NHS patients are:

Certain travel vaccinations (although we do not provide this service at Cross Road Surgery. We will continue to provide the vaccinations that are free on the NHS though).

Private medical insurance reports

Holiday cancellation claim forms

Referral for private care forms

Letters requested by, or on behalf of, the patient

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

Medical reports for an insurance company

Some reports for the DWP

Examinations of local authority employees

Why does it 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. 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. Therefore, in order to complete even the simplest of forms, the doctors need 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 (GMC) or even the Police.

What will I be charged?

The GPs or staff will advise you in advance if there is a charge and how much. A copy of our charges are listed on our website, www.crossroadsurgery.co.uk

Please 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 may cost more.

Due to the costs of these services we will normally ask for payment before collection of any documentation. Please be aware that we only accept cash payments.

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FEES FOR NON NHS SERVICES (Revised May 2017)	
TYPE OF REPORT	FEE
Accident/Sickness Insurance Claim Form	£15.00 - £25.00
Holiday Cancellation Form	£15.00 - £25.00
Private Sick Notes (requested within first 7 days of sickness)	£18.00
Medicals (HGV/Taxi etc) (Fostering/Adoption)	£80.00 £90.00
Reports without medical examination	£90.00
Fitness Certificates	£20.00
Driving Licence/Passports (done at doctors discretion)	£25.00
Miscellaneous Letters (dependant on content)	£15.00 - £25.00
Power of Attorney (completed at surgery) (completed at home visit)	£100.00 £140.00
Photocopies of blood results/vaccination history/letters etc.	40p per sheet
Paternity/DNA testing	£35.00
Access to <u>view</u> medical records	£10.00
Access to <u>copies</u> of medical records:-	
Computer records only	£10.00
Computer and paper records	£10.00 up to a maximum of £50.00
Paper records only	£10.00 up to a maximum of £50.00
Private blood test (not available under NHS)	£25.00 plus charges applied by pathology lab and will vary dependent on test.

PAYMENT

We can only accept payment by cash. Payment must be made before any collection of forms/reports/certificates. You will be given a receipt for any payment made should it be required.