

Your questions answered

Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The 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 covers some of the cost of treatment, for example dental fees. In other cases, it is because the service is not covered by the NHS, such as medical reports for insurance companies.

Surely, the doctor is being paid anyway?

Not all GPs are employed by the NHS, some 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 fee has to cover the doctors' costs.

What is covered by the NHS and what is not?

The Government's contract with GP's covers medical services to NHS patients. In recent years more organisations have been involving doctors in a 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 be sure that information provided is true and accurate.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GP's can charge their NHS patients are:

- Accident / Sickness insurance Certificates
- Certain Travel Vaccinations
- Private Medical Insurance Reports
- Some DVLA reports

Examples of non-NHS services for which GP's can charge other institutions:

- Life assurance and income protection reports for insurance companies
- Some reports for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the DVLA
- Medical reports for local authorities in connection with adopting and fostering

Is it true that the BMA sets fees for non-NHS work? The BMA suggests fees for non-NHS work which is not covered under GP's NHS contract. However, these fees are guidelines only, not recommendations, and a doctor is not obliged to charge the suggested rate.

What will I be charged?

The BMA recommends that GP's tell patients in advance if and how much they will be charged. It is up to the individual doctor to decide how much to charge but the BMA produces a list of suggested fees.

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

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes the GP away from the medical care of patients. Most GP's have a very heavy workload and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time. Non-NHS work is done in the GP's own time.

I only need a 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 patients' entire medical record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor with the GMC or even Police.

Passport forms – due to revised rules introduced by the Passport Office, GPs are unable to countersign passports unless they have known the applicant personally for at least two years (for example, as a friend, neighbour or colleague, and should not be someone who just knows the applicant professionally).

Please note: we are unable to complete Power of Attorney forms unless a solicitor arranges directly with a GP, plus home visit fee if applicable. We generally do not complete Power of Attorney forms and only accept in exceptional circumstances

What do I need to do now?

You will need to complete a "private requests for GP services" form which is either available on the website <https://www.longfurlongmedicalcentre.co.uk/common/getdocument/316248> or from Reception and hand it back into Reception.

What will we do on receipt of the form?

Your request will be processed and if there are any queries you will be contacted for clarification.

Please be patient as the average completion time is **28 working days**; you will be contacted when your paperwork is ready for collection and payment is due.

Urgent requests cannot always be accommodated and may cost more.

Medical records – under GDPR, with effect from May 2018, copies of medical records when requested will be provided free of charge. A reasonable fee will be charge if the information requested is excessive or repetitive.

WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT PAYMENT BY MOST MAJOR DEBIT CARDS (Sorry we are unable to accept American Express, Credit Cards or cheques)

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Practice Email Address:
medical.centre@longfurlong@nhs.net

Practice Web site:
www.longfurlongmedicalcentre.co.uk

Telephone number:
01235 522379

Out of Hours – Emergencies and Advice 111
(An easy number to remember when you need help or advice on any medical problem)

Description	Usual Fee
Vaccinations	
Hepatitis B per vaccine* (correct as at Feb 2022 but subject to price variation)	£165.00
Hepatitis A	NHS – no fee
Typhoid – available on the NHS	NHS – no fee
Tetanus – available on the NHS	NHS – no fee
Diphtheria – available on the NHS	NHS – no fee
Polio – available on the NHS	NHS – no fee
Please note: we are unable to provide vaccines for Rabies and Yellow Fever	
Medicals	
Sports medical & short proforma report / certificate	£160.00
Medical & short proforma report/certificate to participate in charitable events (*charities registration number required for a 20% discount to be applied)	£120.00
Clinical Examination and report (including HGV & Taxi medicals)	£200.00
Please note: we are unable to complete boxing, diving or parachute medicals	
GP Reports	
Detailed report and certificate	£150-£250
Short report - including employment & insurance reports requiring no examination	£120.00
Supplementary reports	£60.00
OFSTED report	£120.00
Firearm / Shotgun licence first applications/renewals	£85.00
Letters / Forms & Certificates	
To Whom it May Concern Letter	£55.00
Fitness to Travel (no examination)	£55.00
Holiday Insurance cancellation	£55.00
BUPA / PPP forms	£60.00
Private Certificates issued before 7 days	£55.00

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO COMPLETE A REPORT

Long Furlong Medical Centre

Fees and Charges Leaflet

Information for Patients

Not all services at our Practice are available under the NHS. When patients request non-NHS items or services a private fee is payable. This leaflet lists those fees, some of which are payable in advance.

Doctors

Dr Karen Barter
Dr Susan Lowe
Dr Anne Taylor
Dr Louise Reed
Dr Sandeep Dhungana
Dr Hans-Joerg Paul

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**Please take a leaflet**