

Private fees for Non-NHS Work

Information for patients and third parties

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.

The BMA (British Medical Association) suggest fees for non-NHS work, which is not covered under GP's NHS contract, to help GPs set their own professional fees. However, the fees are guidelines only, not recommendations, and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates suggested. The BMA recommends that GPs tell patients and third parties in advance if they will be charged, and how much. It is up to the individual doctor to decide how much to charge.

Do GPs 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 insurance purposes, they are not required to do such non-NHS work.

How long does it take for a GP to complete private work?

GPs are busy providing medical services to patients under the NHS contract. Private work is undertaken outside of or in addition to NHS time, which may be scarce for personal or professional reasons. The Spinney Medical Centre will try our hardest to turn around private work as efficiently as possible, but we cannot guarantee the work will always be done as rapidly as a patient hopes.

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 if a patient cannot afford to pay a fee?

The practice recognises that many of our patients may have significant financial difficulties and would not wish to increase their financial stress. For this reason the practice offers two levels of support:

1. Provide the patient with a summary of their medical record including key diagnosis and current medications as previously recorded and read coded in their medical record. There is no charge for this level of support.
2. Provide a specific letter or report to patients for a fee.

Whilst we understand the financial pressures patients may be experiencing, we receive a high volume of these requests and set all of our fees based on the time the GP takes to complete the work, so that we are equitable to all patients and our doctors. We are not able to negotiate our rates or offer reduced prices.

Payment Methods

Payments for these services can be made by Cash or Card

SERVICES

THE SPINNEY MEDICAL CENTRE STATEMENT OF FEES

CERTIFICATES, FORMS, REPORTS & LETTERS

PRIVATE SICK NOTES	£20
PRIVATE PRESCRIPTIONS	£10
PRIVATE LETTER	£25
INSURANCE FORMS (SHORT)	£30
INSURANCE FORMS (COMPLEX)	£68
FITNESS TO TRAVEL/GYM/SPORTS ETC	£25
EMPLOYERS REPORT/PRE EMPLOYMENT	£75
BUS PASS	£20
SHOTGUN LICENCE	PRACTICE DOES NOT COMPLETE
HOUSING LETTER	PRACTICE DOES NOT COMPLETE/REFER SOCIAL PRESCRIBER
PASSPORT	PRACTICE DOES NOT COMPLETE
POWER OF ATTORNEY (IN SURGERY)	£100
POWER OF ATTORNEY (HOME VISIT)	£145

COURT OF PROTECTION	£130
JURY SERVICE	NO CHARGE

MEDICALS

PRE-EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL EXAM WITH REPORT	£100
HGV, LGV, PCV AND TAXI MEDICAL	£100
TAXI MEDICAL (SHORT)	£50
ADOPTION MEDICAL	£100
ADOPTION REPORT (PER COUPLE)	£75
FOSTERING REPORT (PER PARENT)	£75
OFSTED	£75