

Tweeddale Medical Practice **Non-NHS Services**

You will have been given this form if you have requested a non-NHS service from a GP or receptionist. The charges for these services are listed over and are payable in advance/ on collection of documents.

If your request is for medical information to go to a 3rd party, we require signed consent from you. Please ensure that you complete the patient consent overleaf.

Why do GP sometimes charge fees?

Isn't the NHS supposed to be free?

The National Health Service provides most health care to most people free of charge, but there are exceptions. 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, providing copies of health records or producing medical reports for insurance companies.

Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?

It is important to understand that your GPs are not employed by the NHS, but they work for the NHS. They are self-employed and they have to cover their costs – e.g. secretarial time, buildings, heating, lighting, etc – in the same way as any small business. The NHS covers some of 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.

Examples of non-NHS services for which patients are charged are:

- Accident/sickness certificates for insurance purposes
- Holiday insurance certificates/ letters
- Private examinations e.g. HGV/ taxi

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

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?

The BMA produce lists of suggested fees but it is up to individual doctors to decide how much they will charge, depending on the content. The fees for Tweeddale Medical Practice are displayed in the table overleaf.

Tweeddale Medical Practice
Costs for Non-NHS Services

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FEE</u>
Private Lab tests	Variable – dependent on lab fees - will be discussed at appointment or invoiced
<u>Certificates/Letters</u>	
"Fitness to..."	£15 - £30 dependent on content
Insurance Claim (holiday cancellation/mortgage etc.)	£25
Shotgun/ Firearm	NOT ACCEPTED
Witness (Court) – this will not necessarily excuse you	£30
<u>Copies of Medical Records</u>	
Electronic only	£10
Paper	Up to £50
<u>Medicals</u>	
HGV	£110
HSE Diving	£170
PSV	£110
Taxi	£110
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Private Sickline for Employer	£15
<u>Reports</u>	
Medical Report	£30 upwards - dependent on content
Solicitors Report	£60 upwards - dependent on content
<u>Verification</u>	
Driving Licence	£25
Letter	£10-20 dependent on content
Passport	£25

Please note: The doctor may not agree or wish to provide any non-NHS service

Patient consent for release of information

I (insert your name):.....

Consent that (insert name of organisation seeking report):.....

May seek medical information from Dr.....regarding anything that affects my physical or mental health. This is in accordance with the Access to Medical Reports Act 1988.

Patient's signature:.....

Print name:..... Date:.....

Office use

Paid Yes/No
Amount