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## Help With Health Costs

### Personal Legal Services

**If you are on a low income, on certain benefits, or fit other criteria, you, your partner and children might get help with National Health Service (NHS) costs including prescriptions, sight tests and dental care.**

#### Who does it help?

You will qualify for full help with health costs if you get:

- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Allowance
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- The guarantee credit part of Pension Credit.

If you are getting Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit, you may get help. Some people may qualify for help whatever their income. For example, you can get free prescriptions if you:

- Are over 60
- Are having treatment for cancer
- Live in Wales
- Live in Scotland.

You can also get free prescriptions and dental treatment if you are pregnant or have had a baby in the last 12 months and have a valid maternity exception certificate, more information overleaf.

If you have difficulty in meeting your health costs but you do not qualify for full help through entitlement to one of the benefits listed above, or free prescriptions, you may be able to get help under the NHS low income scheme.

#### What help does it provide?

If you qualify for full help, you, your partner and your children get:

- Free prescriptions in England (they are free in Scotland and Wales)
- Free dental treatment and check-ups
- Free sight tests
- Vouchers for glasses or contact lenses (optical vouchers)
- Travel costs to hospital for treatment
- NHS wigs
- NHS fabric supports, for example, abdominal and spinal supports, and support tights.

If you do not qualify for free treatment but need help under the low income scheme, you can apply for a certificate.

There are two types of certificate:

- A full help certificate (HC2)
- A limited help certificate (HC3) which does not qualify you for free prescriptions.

If you need frequent prescriptions but do not qualify to get any help with the cost, you can buy a prepayment certificate which will save you money.

## How do I make a claim?

- If you qualify for free prescriptions, claim help by filling in the back of your prescription form
- If you qualify for free dental care, sign the form they give you when you go for treatment
- If you qualify for free sight tests, when you go for a sight test, tell the optician
- If you are entitled to a free NHS sight test and ask for form GOS1 to apply for it
- If you qualify for travel to hospital for treatment, when you go to hospital, tell them that you want to claim back the cost of your journey.

## Maternity exemption certificate

Apply on form FW8 which you can get from doctors, midwives and health visitors. You must fill in parts 1 and 2 of the form and then ask your doctor, midwife or health visitor to confirm that the information you have given is correct. They then send the form off to the NHS and you should receive the certificate within 21 days.

## Low income scheme

For the NHS low income scheme, the amount of help you get depends on the amount of income you have and you might not get any help at all if you have more than £16,000 in savings, or £23,250 if you live in a care home. To apply for either a full help certificate or a limited help certificate through the low income scheme, fill in form HC1, which is available from local benefit offices, NHS hospitals, dentists, opticians and pharmacists, if you live in a care home the form you require is a HC1 (SC).

If you need help making your claim, call their Customer Contact Team on: **0845 850 1166**. They can fill the form in for you if you wish, and send it to you just to sign and return.

The forms can be found at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk)

## Prepayment certificates for prescriptions

In Wales and Scotland prescriptions are free. In England, there are a number of ways to buy a prepayment certificate:

- Over the phone from the NHS Business Services Authority on: **0845 850 0030**
- From the NHS Business Services Authority website
- At a pharmacy.

## What documents will I need?

In most cases, you will need a National Insurance Number. You will usually need to show evidence of:

- Your identity, and
- Your income and savings or evidence that you are claiming certain benefits.



“We are both extremely grateful for everything you have done for us and could not have wished for better representation.”

**Mrs Keeling**

 **08000 23 22 33**

 **irwinmitchell.com**

 **@irwinmitchell**

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