

Private Requests

It is important to understand that many Doctors 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 covers these costs for NHS work, but for non-NHS work, the fees charged by Doctors contribute towards their costs.

The Government's contract with Doctors covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of on-going 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 Doctors 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

BMA suggest fees for non-NHS work, which is not covered under Doctor's NHS contract, to help Doctors 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 the surgery tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and how much. It is up the individual Doctor to decide how much to charge.

For a list of our Non-NHS Fees and Charges please go to our website.

The charges have been agreed by the Doctors at Central Surgery.

Method of payment - We accept cash and cheques only. Cheques should be made payable to 'Central Surgery unless advised otherwise.

Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight: urgent requests may mean that a doctor has to make special arrangement to process the form quickly, and this will cost more. Please be aware that some reports may take more time, as the doctor might have to check the patient's entire medical records. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor with the General Medical Council (GMC) or even the police.

You must allow 2-3 weeks for completion of reports. You will be contacted when reports are ready for collection. **Please provide a covering letter with any request which must include full name, address, date of birth and contact number.**

In the past reports and forms have been completed prior to payment and we have sadly found the fee has not been forthcoming we now request that the fee must be paid in advance.

Please note that Doctors have no obligation to carry out non-NHS work on behalf of their patients. Whilst Doctors 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. If the Doctor is unable to complete a form you will be advised.

I only need the doctor's signature - what is the problem?

When a Doctor signs a certificate or completes a report, they are legally required to only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete even the simplest of forms, therefore, the Doctor needs to check the patient's entire medical record thoroughly. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the Doctor.



Private Treatment/Requests

What you need to know



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Private Treatment

We understand that many patients have frustrations with NHS waiting times to see specialist clinics or that the type of care they wish to receive is not funded either at local or national level.

Under these circumstances patients may wish to be seen privately either through their health insurance or they may wish to self fund. Whilst we do not wish to provide any unnecessary barriers to patients seeking care outside of the structures set up within the NHS it is important that patients understand that the transfer of care between the private sector and the NHS is not always fluid.

In order to avoid any confusion we have put together this information leaflet for anyone considering private care.

Private Appointments

If you have consulted with a Doctor at the surgery and you have been advised that you will need a referral, please inform the Doctor if you would like to be referred privately.

If you have private insurance you will need to contact your insurers and check which Hospital Consultants are covered under your policy.

Please contact the surgery and inform the Secretaries which Hospital and Hospital Consultant you would like to be referred to.

Please note we do not prioritise private referrals (self funding or insured) and they will be treated in the same manner as NHS referrals. You will be able to see your private Consultant without the referral letter and the referral letter will be sent in due course.

Insurance Claim Forms

Some Insurance Companies require a claim form to be completed. In most cases this form can be completed over the phone with your insurer. However, there are still some circumstances when a claim form needs to be sent out in order to assess the eligibility of your claim.

If your insurer requests for your Doctor to complete a claim form please hand in your claim form with an attached covering letter (including your full name, address, date of birth and contact details).

Please note for completion of claim forms there will be a charge of £40 and this can take up to 2-3 weeks to be completed. This type of work is done outside of Doctors clinical time.

Most Insurance Companies will let you proceed with your treatment however you would have to discuss this policy with your Insurance Company.

Your claim form will then be allocated to the appropriate Doctor and you will be contacted once ready for collection.

Private Tests

If you see a private specialist who recommends a particular investigation or course of treatment it is an expectation that you continue to receive this privately.

Any investigation ordered is the responsibility of the requesting clinician to review and act upon any result. Hence requests to order additional investigations on the NHS will be denied in the first instance.

Please ensure that your insurance covers for these investigations or that you have taken them in to account if you are self funding. If deemed clinically appropriate we may consider transferring your care to the NHS however for any investigations or treatment options which are normally initiated within secondary care if you wish to have them in the NHS you will likely need a referral to a secondary care specialist in order to access them and this will only be done if in accordance with recognised guidelines used within the NHS.

Private Prescriptions

Prescriptions initiated by non NHS secondary care specialists must be collected privately if they have issued you with a private script.

We will not automatically transfer them to an NHS script. If initiated on a long term medication and if within recognised guidelines consideration will be given as to whether it is appropriate for you to continue this medication on the NHS.

If the medication issued is not within NICE approved guidelines we will not transfer prescriptions on to NHS scripts. If the medication is one that is normally initiated within secondary care and you wish to transfer treatment over to the NHS we will consider referring you to a specialist within the NHS if clinically appropriate.

