

Patient information

Prescription Prepayment Certificates for Patients

Haematology Department

This leaflet explains how patients can obtain prescription prepayment certificates to help with the cost of paying for their regular medication.

In England, most working-age adults have to pay prescription charges. Some prescribed items are always free (including contraceptives and medication for hospital inpatients) and **certain groups of patients are entitled to free NHS prescriptions** for example if you receive income based benefits or tax credits, or if you are pregnant or have had a baby in the last 12 months.

Unfortunately, many patients with acute and chronic Haematological conditions are not eligible for free prescriptions meaning that for each prescribed item, there is a prescription charge. For patients taking multiple medications regularly for their condition, this can become very expensive.

If you regularly pay prescription charges, a **prescription prepayment certificate (PPC)** could save you money.

A PPC covers all of your NHS prescriptions, including NHS dental prescriptions, no matter how many items you need.

There are two PPC options to choose from:

1. The three - month PPC will save you money if you need more than three prescribed items in three months.
2. The 12-month PPC will save you money if you need more than 11 prescribed items in a year

How much can I save?

If you are prescribed two items or more each month you can make a save a considerable amount with a 12-month PPC

There are several payment options available. If you choose the 12-month PPC, you can pay for this upfront, or by ten monthly direct debit instalments.

How to apply for a PPC

It's quickest to **buy a PPC online**. The PPC will start from the day you submit your application, unless you request a different start date.

Visit **www.gov.uk/get-a-ppc**.

If you prefer talking to someone, you can call the PPC order line on 0300 330 1341. Your certificate will be valid from the day you make the phone call, unless you request otherwise.

Make sure you have your bank details or credit or debit card details ready.

You can receive your certificate details by email if you provide an email address, print them at the end of your online application, or receive the details by post.

Although a PPC is valid from the day of your application (unless otherwise requested), it may take a couple of days to receive the details of your certificate by post. If you pay prescription charges while you're waiting for the details to arrive, you can get a refund, as long as you get an NHS refund form (FP57) when you pay.

Some pharmacies may be able to sell you a PPC. You will not be able to pay by direct debit if you buy a PPC at a pharmacy.

Either contact **your local pharmacy** or view the **list of registered pharmacies** on the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) website to find which ones sell PPCs.

Useful tips

Remember to apply for a new PPC in plenty of time; otherwise you'll have to pay full prescription charges if it expires.

It's important that you do not use your certificate after it expires. The NHSBSA checks that patients who claim for free prescriptions are entitled to the exemption they have declared.

If you have to pay for prescriptions while you're waiting for details about a new PPC and need to apply for a refund, ask the pharmacist for an NHS receipt (FP57) so you can claim back the cost. Your PPC must cover the date you paid the prescription charge.

You can claim for the refund of prescription charges up to three months after paying. The FP57 explains what to do.

If you buy a 12-month PPC by direct debit, you are entering into a commitment to pay all the instalments.

NHS Low Income Scheme

Some patients may also be eligible to apply for the NHS Low Income Scheme. If you have a low income, the NHS Low Income Scheme could help you pay for:

- NHS prescription charges.
- NHS dental treatment charges.
- the cost of sight tests, glasses and contact lenses.
- the cost of travelling to receive NHS treatment.

How much help you get depends on your weekly income and necessary outgoings, plus any savings or investments you have at the time you apply. If the amount you have left is low, you may be able to get help through the NHS Low Income Scheme. Any help you're entitled to is also available to your partner, if you have one.

Please check on www.gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income.

**Up to date information on all schemes can be found at
<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-help-health-costs>**

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

Specialist Haemoglobinopathy Team:

**Consultant Haematologist
Advanced Clinical Practitioner
Clinical Nurse Specialist x 2
Haematology Specialist Registrar (Rotational Position)
Psychologist
Advanced Clinical Pharmacist**

Contact Details:

**Specialist Haemoglobinopathy Team
Tel: 0151 706 3397
Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 3397**

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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زانیاری پیوه‌ندیدار بهو نه‌خوشانه‌ی له‌لایمن تراسته‌وه پسه‌ند کراون، نه‌گهر داوا بکریت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنه‌وه)، چاپی گه‌وره، شریتی ده‌نگ، هیلی موون و نه‌لیکترونیکی هه‌یه.

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