

Why GPs sometimes charge fees & what to expect

People told us they are concerned about the amount they are being charged by their GP for signatures, certificates and reports.

Why do GPs charge fees ?

GPs are paid by the NHS to cover medical services for NHS patients and to provide ongoing medical treatment. Many GPs work as independent businesses and can charge fees for **non-NHS** work.

Why do fees vary between GP practices ?

Individual doctors are free to set their own fees for any non-NHS work they do. This means your surgery may charge a different amount to another one.

What fees to expect for non-NHS work

Although doctors can set their own fees, it is recommended that they follow the **BMA guidelines**.

Your GP can charge you £18 for a certificate of fact, up to £63 for more complex certificates and up to £133 for detailed reports on your condition.

[These are only guidelines, BMA website 2017]



Certain **Travel vaccines** including Rabies, meningitis, tuberculosis (TB), yellow fever, Japanese & tick-borne encephalitis can be charged (prescriptions and/or administration).

What GPs cannot charge for:

- Fit note
- Bankruptcy
- Coroner's post-mortem
- Council tax exemptions
- Death certificates
- Stillbirth certificates
- Notification of infectious disease
- Paternity tests
- Professional evidence in court

GPs can only sign passports if they know you well & for longer than 2 years

How you can help:

- **Always** ask your GP how much they are going to charge and how long it will take before asking them to carry out non-NHS work.
- Check if your request can be completed by a professional other than your GP (<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/fees/no-set-fee>)
- Speak to your local **Healthwatch** if you are still concerned!

