

Charges and optical voucher values

1 APRIL 2006

Prescriptions

Wigs and fabric support

Hospital travel costs

Dental treatment

Sight tests

Glasses or contact lenses

The penalty charge

Supplements to vouchers

Where clinically necessary.

			per lens
• Prism	P	Single vision	£11.00
	P	Bifocal	£13.10
• Tint	T	Single vision	£3.70
	T	Bifocal	£4.20
• Photochromic		Single vision	£3.70
		Other lenses	£4.20
• Special frames			per frame up to £55.50

Repairs/replacements of glasses or contact lenses

If, exceptionally, you are entitled to a voucher for repair or replacement, its value will be up to the figures shown in this leaflet, depending on the part which needs replacing or repairing.

HELP WITH NHS HEALTH COSTS

Need help with paying these charges or getting an optical voucher? Read leaflet [HC11 – Help with health costs](#). You can get a copy at Jobcentre Plus offices, NHS hospitals or ask your NHS practitioner. Or go to www.dh.gov.uk/helpwithhealthcosts.

TAX CREDIT EXEMPTIONS

Working Tax Credit (WTC) Child Tax Credit (CTC)

You can mark NHS treatment forms to say you are entitled to full help with health costs (for example, free prescriptions) because you are entitled to a tax credit exemption certificate if:

- your tax credit award notice shows your gross annual income is £15,050 or less⁴ **and** one of the following also applies:
 - you get both WTC and CTC, or
 - you get WTC on its own which includes a disability element or severe disability element, or
 - you get CTC on its own because you are not eligible for WTC.

⁴ The £15,050 limit applies from 6 April 2005.

What to do before your tax credit certificate arrives

If you are entitled to help with NHS health costs and you need treatment before your certificate arrives, you can sign NHS treatment forms to say you don't have to pay. Tick the box to say you don't have to pay because you are "entitled to, or named on, an NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate". Take your tax credit award when you go for treatment as evidence of entitlement.

THE PENALTY CHARGE

The penalty charge is a civil fine and may be imposed where a patient is found to have wrongly claimed total or partial help with health costs. The penalty charge is 5 times the amount owed, up to a maximum of a £100. This is in addition to the original charge. For example:

Prescriptions penalty charge

A patient who wrongly claims free prescription items when the charge is £13.30 will have to pay:

• The original charge of	£13.30
• A penalty charge of	£66.50
• TOTAL	£79.80

If you are entitled to help you won't have to pay penalty charges – this won't affect you.

For further information about penalty charges, go to www.cfsms.uk.

NHS PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

- Charge per prescribed item £6.65

For items dispensed in combination (duo) packs, there is a prescription charge for each different drug in the pack.

- Support stockings – each £6.65
- Support tights – per pair¹ £13.30

¹Available from hospitals only

Prescription prepayment certificates (PPC)

Application received on or after 1 April 2006:

- 4 months £34.65
- 12 months £95.30

NHS WIGS AND FABRIC SUPPORTS

- Stock modacrylic wig £55.10
- Partial wig – human hair £145.55
- Full bespoke wig – human hair £212.85
- Abdominal support £33.75
- Spinal support £33.75
- Surgical brassiere £22.30

HOSPITAL TRAVEL COSTS

The maximum you will pay if you live in the Scilly Isles is:

- Scilly Isles £5.00

NHS DENTAL TREATMENT from 1 April 2006

If you normally pay for NHS dental treatment, there will be three standard charges.

The amount you pay will depend on the treatment you need to keep your teeth and gums healthy.

You will pay one of the three charges below:

- This charge will include an examination, diagnosis and preventive care. If necessary this will include X-rays, scale and polish and planning for further treatment. Urgent and out-of-hours care will also cost £15.50. £15.50
- This charge includes all necessary treatment covered by the £15.50 charge PLUS additional treatment such as fillings, root canal treatments or extractions. £42.40
- This charge includes all necessary treatment covered by the £15.50 and £42.40 charges PLUS more complex procedures such as crowns, dentures or bridges. £189.00

You will pay one charge even if you need to visit more than once to complete a course of treatment.

If you are referred to another dentist, you will still pay one charge (to the dentist who refers you).

If you need more treatment at the same charge level (e.g. an additional filling) within two months of seeing your dentist, this will be free of charge.

Example courses of treatment

- Examination, diagnosis and preventive advice. £15.50
- Examination, diagnosis and preventive advice and one or more fillings. £42.40
- Examination, diagnosis and preventive advice, one or more fillings and one or more crowns. £189.00

Note: You should ask your dentist how much your individual treatment plan will cost. The dental practice may ask you to pay before beginning your treatment.

There will be no charge for writing a prescription² or for removing stitches.

² Usual charges apply when getting the prescription dispensed.

The maximum charge for a complex course of treatment has been reduced from £384 to £189. Most courses of treatment will cost £15.50 or £42.40.

Your dentist should display a poster about NHS charges in the waiting room.

SIGHT TESTS

- NHS sight test³ £18.39
- NHS sight tests at home³ £50.77
- Hospital eye department test FREE

³ For HC3 purposes only. At the time of printing the NHS sight test fee for 2006-07 has not been determined.

- Private sight test *see your optician*
- Private sight test at home *see your optician*

NHS VOUCHERS FOR GLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

Optical vouchers

Maximum value per pair of glasses or contact lenses

- Single vision

A	£33.70
B	£51.20
C	£74.90
D	£169.10
- Bifocal

E	£58.20
F	£74.00
G	£95.90
H	£185.90
- Hospital eye department

I	£173.20
J (per lens)	£49.20
- Complex lens – single vision £12.70
- Complex lens – bifocal £32.10

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