

Health Information - for young people supported by a local authority after leaving care

This link will tell you (and your social worker or personal adviser) all about 'Help with health costs' from April 2022 [Help with health costs 2022](#)

If you are aged 16 or 17 and supported by a local authority because you recently left local authority care, you are entitled to full help with health costs through the NHS Low Income Scheme HC1(SC) certificate.



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Your social worker or personal adviser could support you to complete the form above and it will need to be sent to – **NHS Business Services Authority at: Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6SN.**

KEEP a copy of your form for your information in case there are any questions about your application.

Your claim will normally be dealt with within 15 working days from the date your form is received. If NHSBSA need more information they will contact you, they will normally decide what help you can get within five working days of receiving the extra information they need. If you are entitled to help, they will send you a certificate telling you how much, if anything, you have to pay towards your health costs. (This may take up to 1 month)

If you have any questions about your claim, or have not heard from NHSBSA after four weeks, you can phone the **customer enquiry line on 0300 330 1343**, Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm or Saturday between 9 am and 3 pm.

Any certificate will have an end date. If you wish to renew your certificate, you must fill in and send a new claim form to NHSBSA four weeks before your old certificate runs out.

If NHSBA send you a new certificate before the old one runs out, you can use whichever one gives you the most help. You do not have to wait until the old one runs out before using the new one.

If you are going to be 18 years or older when you apply for the first time, or your old HC1(SC) certificate runs out you will need to apply via the **NHS Low Income Scheme**. All the details are on this link [NHS costs help](#)

Depending on your circumstances, you can apply for full help (**HC2 certificate**) or partial help (**HC3 certificate**).

NHS Low Income Scheme – Support for UASC and Care Leavers

Support is available for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children once they reach age 18, and Care Leavers on low income, under the NHS Low Income Scheme.

The scheme entitles anyone who holds a **HC2 certificate** for full help with health costs:

- free NHS prescriptions
- free NHS dental treatment
- free NHS sight tests
- help with the cost of glasses or contact lenses
- help with the cost of travelling to receive NHS treatment
- free NHS wigs and fabric supports

The **HC3 certificate** entitles you to partial help with health costs. Your certificate will tell you how much you can get towards the cost of:

- NHS dental Treatment
- NHS sight tests
- Travelling to receive NHS treatment.
- NHS wigs and fabric supports.

In England, the income limit is £23,250 for people who live permanently in a care home and £16,000 for everyone else

The rules governing who is eligible are broadly the same as those for a means-tested benefit. But the assessment also considers council tax and housing costs, so you can get help with health costs even if your income is too high for a means-tested benefit.

You will need to print and complete an HC1 form and post it to the address provided on the form. – *If you have less than £6,000 in savings you may be able to complete your application online via the link [Help with NHS costs](#)*

If NHSBSA need more information they will contact you, they will normally decide what help you can get within five working days of receiving the extra information they need. If you are entitled to help, they will send you a certificate telling you how much, if anything, you have to pay towards your health costs. (This may take up to 1 month). If you have any questions about your claim, or have not heard from NHSBSA after four weeks, you can phone the **customer enquiry line on 0300 330 1343**, Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm or Saturday between 9 am and 3 pm.

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES:

In England, some groups like 16–18-year-olds in full-time education are entitled to free prescriptions but most people over 18 years of age have to pay prescription charges. Some prescribed items are always free, including contraceptives.

The NHS prescription charge is currently £9.35 for each prescribed item, which means that there is a charge for each different drug or medical appliance on your prescription.

If you regularly pay prescription charges, a [prescription prepayment certificate \(PPC\)](#) could save you money.

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES - REFUNDS

If you pay NHS prescription charges then find out that you are entitled to free prescriptions or backdate a prescription prepayment certificate, you can only get a refund if you were given an FP57 refund receipt when you paid. You cannot get one later. Do not forget to ask for one.

Take your FP57 refund receipt to any community pharmacy, with evidence that you were entitled to free NHS prescriptions when you paid. You must do this within three months of the date that you paid. The pharmacy will refund you.

DENTAL CHARGES:

In England, the current dental charges are currently (2022) - they are reviewed every year.

Urgent Treatment – £23.80 - Emergency appointments and any emergency or urgent treatment you need that cannot be postponed.

Band 1 – £23.80 - Dental check-ups and if your dentist finds you need any X-Rays or a simple clean (scale) then these are included at no extra cost.

Band 2 – £65.20 - Everything in Band 1 plus NHS treatment provided directly by your dentist (such as fillings, deep cleaning, simple root canal treatments, extractions), and simple changes to dentures (such as adding an extra tooth or relining the fit surface).

Band 3 – £282.80 - Everything in Band 1 and Band 2 plus complex NHS treatment requiring the help of a dental lab such as crowns, veneers, bridges, dentures and mouthguards.

DENTAL CHARGES - REFUNDS

If you pay NHS dental treatment charges then find out that you're entitled to free or reduced cost treatment, you can claim a refund. You must make your refund claim within three months of paying charges.

If you live in England

Download and print the HC5(D) form. The form tells you what to do.

In order to speed up your request for a refund, make sure that your email address is clearly entered on to the HC5(D) form, along with your name, address, date of birth, and bank or building society details. This will enable the NHSBSA to make the payment directly into your account.

HC5(D) dental charges refund form (PDF: 85.2KB)

See Individual Funding requests below for [Restorative dentistry – Individual Funding Request \(IFR\)](#)

INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST

[Individual funding requests for specialised services – a guide for patients \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

What is an individual funding request? An individual funding request can be made by the clinician treating you if they believe that because your clinical circumstances are exceptional, you may receive benefit from a treatment or service that is not routinely offered by the NHS

When can an individual funding request be made? An individual funding request can be made for a treatment that is not routinely offered by the NHS: • when your clinician believes that your clinical circumstances are clearly different to other patients with the same condition, and • when there is a reason why you would respond differently to other patients - and therefore gain more clinical benefit from the treatment.

Who can make an individual funding request? The individual funding request is made by a clinician. NHS England cannot accept individual funding requests directly from patients, although patients can work with their clinician to have input into the process if their clinician believes they are eligible

Restorative dentistry – Individual Funding Request (IFR) Your dentist may suggest that you require complex dental treatment for example root canal, a bridge or denture. Check if the cost of this is covered by your NHS low-income certificate **HC2** or **HC3**. If not ask if they will consider making an individual funding request and stating on it that you are a Care Leaver. If you have not told them before they may need to check this with your social worker, Personal adviser.