

Hindon Surgery Advice about Private fees

Hindon Surgery is an NHS general practice and we have no UK resident private patients.

However our contract with the NHS does not cover every service we provide.

There are a small number of services that will cost you the patient a fee.

If you are requesting a service that is outside NHS provision the staff will tell you and also the amount that you will be charged.

Because we are registered for V.A.T. some of these services will also have this tax on top (at 20%). Examples of services that you will need to pay for:

- Private prescriptions (usually for medication related to traveling), the minimum amount will be the current NHS prescription charge per item (£7.85 in 2013)
- Some vaccinations for travel or occupational purposes.
- Consultation fees if not entitled to NHS care as not resident in the UK (this applies to British nationals who live abroad).
- Medical reports (e.g. for employment, sickness less than 7 days, sports fitness etc) where the payment is the responsibility of the patient.
- Letters to support housing applications
- Reports verifying private medical treatment elsewhere and claims for insurance payments.
- Verification of identity or signature (e.g. passport applications, shotgun certificates).
- Any other service not covered by our contract to provide NHS services

We review our charges every April and you will be told the current charge.

Payment

We have to ask for payment BEFORE the provision of the service.

This is because the number of non-payers is now greater than those that have paid and our staff and your GPs find it difficult to raise this subject.

No one would expect to go into a local shop, leave with some goods and not expect to pay for them because they know the staff personally. The same has to apply at Hindon Surgery.

Ensuring these services are paid for is part of the surgery anti-fraud policy. (As is asking for proof of exemption from prescription charges if aged between 16 and 60.)

The PCT inspects us for compliance with anti-fraud policies.

We are sorry that we have had to introduce this measure (we adopted it some time ago for commercial organizations) and we know that the vast majority of our patients know that not everything provided by the surgery is covered free on the NHS.

You have the right to request a private service from an alternative provider if you wish.