

Free prescriptions for people affected by cancer

Following the success of Macmillan's prescription charges campaign, cancer patients are entitled to free prescriptions.

Since 1 April 2009, cancer patients in England have been eligible for free prescriptions. All cancer patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment can apply for exemption certificates from their GP or oncology clinic.

[Find out about our prescription charges campaign in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.](#)

Free prescriptions for cancer patients in England

Following the success of our prescription charges campaign, cancer patients are now entitled to free prescriptions. We encourage all cancer patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment to apply for an exemption certificate.

[Find out how successful the campaign has been in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.](#)

How do I apply?

Patients can apply for an exemption certificate by collecting a FP92A form from their GP surgery or oncology clinic. The form must be countersigned by their GP or hospital doctor, then sent to the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), who will issue an exemption certificate.

Patients can show their exemption certificate to their pharmacist as proof of exemption. The certificate will last for 5 years. Once the certificate has expired a new application can be made. The NHS BSA will remind patients before the expiry date.

Pending receipt of an exemption certificate, patients should ask their pharmacist for an NHS receipt (FP57) when they pay a prescription charge.

Exemption certificates cover all prescriptions, not just those relating to cancer. Anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis can get all their prescriptions free of charge, including those for cancer, the effects of cancer and the effects of cancer treatment.

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Further information

The Department of Health have issued a [Q&A on the changes to the prescriptions charging system in England](#) .

Find further information on [getting financial support for health costs on our financial help pages](#) .

Information for GPs and oncologists

GPs and oncologists should issue an exemption certificate to people needing medication to treat:

- **any diagnosed cancer** (including drugs prescribed after curative treatment eg Tamoxifen and hormone replacement therapy and lymphoedema garments)
- **the effects of cancer** (including palliative care and changes to mental health since a cancer diagnosis)
- **the effects of cancer treatment** (including the effects of current treatment or previous treatment. They include the side-effects of cytotoxic drugs and the late effects of radiation).

To read the Department of Health's latest guidance on prescription charges, visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/prescriptionchargesreview .

Help us spread the word

The Department of Health estimates that 150,000 people are eligible for free prescriptions in England. However, they have confirmed that, so far, there has been limited take up of the entitlement.

We are asking all of our supporters to help us raise awareness of this entitlement. If you are able, [please print this poster \[PDF, 310kb\]](#) and put it up – at the doctor's surgery, on a local community news board, at work or anywhere it will be seen and help make a difference.

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales company number 2400969. Isle of Man company number 4694F. Registered office: 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UQ.

For cancer support every step of the way, call Macmillan free on 0808 808 00 00 (Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk