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**Bedworth Health Centre**

**Non-NHS Work**

**PRIVATE FEES**

**Introduction**

The NHS provides most health care free of charge. However, there are many other services for which fees can be charged. These are mainly for services not covered by the NHS, such as medical reports for insurance companies, some travel vaccinations and some medical certificates. The list is comprehensive and based upon a range of non-NHS services that the practice offers. The practice reserves the right to charge a fee for any services which are not provided free of charge within our NHS contract for patients not entitled to NHS care.

Doctors are involved in a whole range of non-medical work and are in a position of trust within the community to verify the accuracy of information provided to companies etc.

**Patient Questions and Answers**

**Isn’t the NHS supposed to be free?**
The National Health Service provides most health care to most people free of charge, but there are exceptions: prescription charges have existed since 1951 and there are a number of other services for which fees are charged. Sometimes the charge is made to cover some of the cost of treatment, for example, dental fees; in other cases, it is because the service is not covered by the NHS, for example, providing copies of health records or producing medical reports for insurance companies.

**Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?**
It is important to understand that many GPs are not employed by the NHS; they are self-employed and they have to cover their costs - staff, buildings, heating, lighting, etc - in the same way as any small business. The NHS covers these costs for NHS work, but for non-NHS work, the fees charged by GPs contribute towards their costs.

**What is covered by the NHS and what is not?**
The Government’s contract with GPs covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of ongoing medical treatment. In recent years, however, more and more organizations have been involving doctors in a whole range of non-medical work. Sometimes the only reason that GPs are asked is because they are in a position of trust in the community, or because an insurance company or employer wants to ensure that information provided to them is true and accurate.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge their own NHS patients are:

* accident/sickness certificates for insurance purposes
* school fee and holiday insurance certificates
* reports for health clubs to certify that patients are fit to exercise

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge other institutions are:

* life assurance and income protection reports for insurance companies
* reports for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in connection with disability living allowance and attendance allowance
* medical reports for local authorities in connection with adoption and fostering

**Do GPs have to do non-NHS work for their patients?**
With certain limited exceptions, for example a GP confirming that one of their patients is not fit for jury service, GPs do not have to carry out non-NHS work on behalf of their patients. Whilst GPs will always attempt to assist their patients with the completion of forms, for example for insurance purposes, they are not required to do such non-NHS work.

**Is it true that the BMA sets fees for non-NHS work?**
We suggest fees that GPs may charge their patients for non-NHS work (i.e. work not covered under their contract with the NHS) in order to help GPs set their own professional fees. However, the fees suggested by us are intended for guidance only; they are not recommendations and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates we suggest.

**Can a fee be charged by a GP for the completion of cremation forms?**
A deceased person cannot be cremated until the cause of death is definitely known and properly recorded. Before cremation can take place two certificates need to be signed, one by the GP and one by another doctor. Cremation form 4 must be completed by the ’registered medical practitioner who attended the deceased during their last illness’. Form 5 must be completed by a ’registered medical practitioner who is neither a partner nor a relative of the doctor who completed form 4’.

A fee can be charged for the completion of both forms 4 and 5 as this does not form part of a doctor’s NHS duties (1). Doctors normally charge these fees to the funeral director, who, generally passes on the cost to the family. Doctors are also entitled to charge a mileage allowance, where appropriate.

The fees for cremation forms 4 and 5 (which are agreed with the National Association of Funeral Directors, NAFD, the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors, SAIF, and Co-operative Funeral care) are available on our website.

**Can VAT be charged by GPs for some non-NHS services?**
Since 1 May 2007, certain medical services have become subject to Value Added Tax (VAT). This follows a European Court of Justice Ruling in 2003, and subsequent changes to VAT rules introduced by HM Revenue & Customs.

The original Court ruling made it clear that, where the main purpose of a medical service is the ’protection, maintenance or restoration of the health of an individual’ then that service **should continue to be exempt from VAT**. All healthcare provided either through the NHS, or the private sector, is therefore not subject to VAT.

However, where the purpose of a medical service is not, primarily, the treatment of a patient (for example, the completion of medical insurance reports by a doctor), the Court ruled that this service should be subject to VAT. Such GP reports have been subject to VAT since 1 May 2007. In the UK this applies where a medical practitioner’s income exceeds the VAT registration threshold.

**Why does it sometimes take my GP a long time to complete my form?**
Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes the GP away from the medical care of his or her patients. Most GPs have a very heavy workload and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time, so many GPs find they have to take some paperwork home at night and weekends.

**I only need the doctor’s signature - what is the problem?**
When a doctor signs a certificate or completes a report, it is a condition of remaining on the Medical Register that they only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete even the simplest of forms, therefore, the doctor might have to check the patient’s entire medical record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor with the General Medical Council (the doctors’ regulatory body) or even the Police.

**What will I be charged?**
We recommend that GPs tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and what the fee will be. It is up to individual doctors to decide how much they will charge, but we produce lists of suggested fees which many doctors use. Surgeries often have lists of fees on the waiting room wall based on these suggested fees.

**What can I do to help?**

* Not all documents need a signature by a doctor, for example passport applications. You can ask another person in a position of trust to sign such documents free of charge.
* If you have several forms requiring completion, present them all at once and ask your GP if he or she is prepared to complete them at the same time to speed up the process.
* Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight: urgent requests may mean that a doctor has to make special arrangements to process the form quickly, and this will cost more.

**What report work doesn’t have to be done by my GP?**
There is some medical examination and report work that can be done by any doctor, not only a patient’s GP. For this work there are no set or recommended fees.

There is a list of the kind of reports which can be done by any doctor.

**Further information**
Read our FAQ s to find answers to the questions we are most frequently asked about the professional fees which doctors can charge.

(1) It is important to differentiate between death certificates (which must be completed free of charge) and cremation forms. Cremation forms, unlike death certificates, require doctors to make certain investigations which do not form part of their NHS duties.

**BEDWORTH HEALTH CENTRE**

 **NON-NHS CHARGES**

**August 2019**

GP Reports £130.00

Supplements £60.00

Examinations £180.00

**Patient Fees:**

Private Note £50.00

HGV Medical £150.00

Insurance Report £50.00

Driving Licence £60.00

Fitness to Travel Medical £140.00 + certificate £40.00

Holiday Cancellation £65.00

Ofsted – Early Years Childcare £55.00

Fit to Fly £50.00

Statement of Fact £50.00

**Services Not Covered**

Passports

Blue Badge

Bus Pass applications

Council Housing applications

Shot Gun Licences

Citizen Advice Bureau

PIP Appeal letters

Council Tax appeals/applications

**Insurance Companies, Solicitors & other bodies:**

Disability Living Allowance £50.00

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority £45.00

Foster Care/Adoption update £39.22

Private Blood Tests (Price on application)

Convalescent Home Forms £30.00

Referrals by BUPA, Simply Health etc £45.00

Foster Questionnaires, Medicals. Children pay afterwards. Parents before.

Cancer Research Free

Drug Safety/Trials Free

Prescription Exemption Free

Veterans Agency Free

Patients Taken Ill Whilst on Holiday £70.00

Freedom From Infection Certificate £40.00

Sickness/Accident Insurance Benefit Claim £60.00

**Medical Examinations & Reports**

Fee for Medical Consultation – Please enquire £180.00

Private Patient Per Hour £70.00

Private Patient Unregistered at this Surgery £70.00

DNA Testing £85.00 + kit £85

Covex Exemption £110.00

Full Examination £170.00

Power of Attorney including Mental Health Exam £160.00

Assessment of Capacity £160.00

The practice reserves the right to raise or change charges for any other services it delivers in addition to those outlined above.

The practice needs to receive prior payment before any work is completed by any doctor or healthcare professional.

**Travel Vaccinations Non NHS**

Meningitis ACWY £70.00 per dose

Malaria Prescription (private fee, not including drugs) £40.00 per dose

Yellow Fever Exemption Form > 60 years of age £15.00

Hepatitis B (3 vaccinations required for full course) £55.00 per dose

Course of 3 + blood test £195 full course

Hepatitis B Junior £55.00 per dose

Rabies (3 vaccinations required for full course) £80.00 per dose

Japanese Encephalitis(Ixiaro, 2 vaccinations required for full course)£110.00 per dose

Tick-born Encephalitis £95 per dose

Tick-born Encephalitis Junior £85 per dose

Re-issue of Vaccination Certificate £15.00

**Please note the practice requires 6-8 weeks notice in order to obtain the appropriate vaccine required.**

The practice reserves the right to raise charges for any other services it delivers in addition to those outlined above such as charges for domiciliary visits which will be determined by the time taken to travel to and return from the place of domicile, plus mileage @ £0.90 per mile combined with the cost of the service delivered.

A miniumum charge of £55.00 will be applied, although the sum may be higher at the discretion of the practice.

**Should any laboratory tests be required as part of the consultations / examinations outlined above, these will be subject to a separate charge and details of the costs likely to be incurred should be determined with the practice before the tests are undertaken.**

**Travel**

**Vaccine Information**

**Polio**

Part of most national childhood vaccine programmes. Boosters recommended every 10 years for travel to areas outside of Europe, Australasia or the Americas.

When: Anytime before departure.

**Tetanus**

A routine childhood vaccine. Boosters needed every ten years for travel to areas where immediate treatment may not be available, or after a cut or injury.

When: Anytime before departure.

**Diphtheria**

A routine childhood vaccine. A disease of close contact (transmitted through droplets in the air.) Vaccine is recommended for those who will be in close contact with infected people in endemic areas (much of the developing world and the former states of the USSR) or for those requiring tetanus booster, as they are available in a combined vaccine. Boost every 10 years.

When: Anytime before departure.

**Hepatitis A**

A disease transmitted through contaminated food or water, spread via the faecal/oral route. This disease occurs worldwide although there is a higher incidence in the developing world where hygiene may be poor. Vaccination protects initially for one year and then a further injection boosts immunity to 20 years, possibly life.

When: Two to four weeks before travel

**Typhoid**

A disease transmitted through foot or water contaminated with infected faeces. Vaccination provides approximately 80% protection for three years. Recommended for those travelling to areas with poor hygiene/limited access to safe food and water in lower risk areas. Available as a single shot or as a combined vaccine with Hepatitis A.

When: Two weeks before travel

**Yellow Fever**

This disease exists in South America and Africa where vaccination is recommended on personal health grounds. For certain countries a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is mandatory for entry. Immunisation lasts for 10 years.

When: 10 days before travel.

**Hepatitis B**

This infection is transmitted through sexual contact or contact with blood or blood products. Vaccination is recommended for people spending long periods of time in endemic areas. People with high-risk occupations working abroad should also be vaccinated (such as doctors, nurses, dentists, teachers etc) A course of vaccines is required – three injections over six months although more rapid schedules can be done for those leaving with less time available.

When: Ideally six months before travel.

**Meningitis A, C W135 Y Vaccine**

This vaccine is mandatory for pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia for either the Hajj or Umra. A disease transmitted by droplets in the air. Recommended for travellers who will be in close contact with local people in risk areas. Meningitis occurs in a belt across Africa during the dry season and periodic epidemics occur elsewhere. Vaccine covering four strains of Meningitis.

When: Two to three weeks prior to travel.

**Japanese encephalitis**

A mosquito-borne disease occurring in areas of the Indian Subcontinent and South East Asia. This vaccine is recommended for travellers spending long periods in rural areas (over four weeks) or making repeated visits to rural areas during the high-risk transmission season. A course of two vaccines.

When: Six weeks prior to travel

**Rabies**

A disease transmitted through the bite of an infected mammal. Occurs throughout much of the world. Travellers who are more than 24 hours away from medical facilities are recommended to be vaccinated or those in regular contact with animals. This is a course of vaccines over one month. Further treatment is still required after a bite but both reduce the amount of treatment needed and changes the treatment required. In some developing countries there are no guarantees as to the quality or availability of treatment.

When: Four to six weeks before travel.

**Tick borne encephalitis**

A disease transmitted by the bite of infected ticks. Occurs throughout Central and Eastern Europe during the summer months. Prevention is through avoiding tick bites. Vaccination is recommended for those who may be exposed to ticks such as walkers, forestry workers or people living in rural areas.

When: Six weeks prior to travel

**Cholera**

Transmitted mainly in faecally contaminated water and food. Vaccine recommended during outbreaks or for aid workers, those working in poor conditions when unable to take effective precautions. Vaccine also provides some protection against ETEC – one of the bacterias known to cause travellers diarrhoea. A course of two oral vaccines. Gives 80% coverage for two years.

When: Minimum three weeks prior to travel.

Most vaccinations take between two and six weeks to provide highest levels of immunity. It is therefore advised that you book your travel consultation at least six to 8 weeks prior to travel. Last minute travellers should still book in to be seen as soon as possible, as late vaccination with start to provide some increasing protection throughout your trip.

All travel appointments need to be booked in advance and require two routine appointments. Patients can book for a travel consultation within any practice nursing clinic. Please advise reception that you require a travel vaccination appointment, so they can arrange the longer appointment slot required for this service.

All patients are encouraged to attend with their vaccination record book or immunisation history wherever possible. This is particularly important for new patients and those arriving from abroad. Without this information, immunisation may be delayed and can in some instance mean repeating courses of vaccines and incurring the patient unnecessary costs.

Many patients will require malaria prophlaxis for travel abroad. Many of the drugs required for protection against malaria cannot be purchased over the counter at the chemist. For patients requiring a malaria prescription, a £15.00 private prescription charge is payable to the practice. This prescription is then taken to your preferred chemist where you will be required to pay to cover cost of the drugs. We can offer advice on competitive providers.