

Private Work (Non-NHS work)

Information for patients and third parties @ Newent Doctors Practice



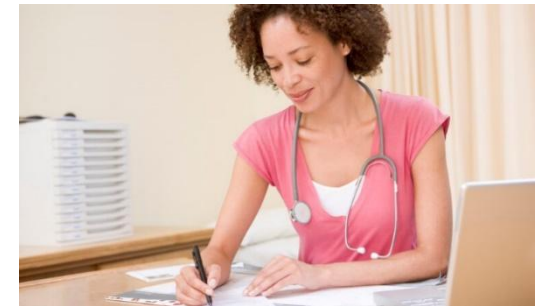
What I need to know

Private Requests

The Government's contract with GPs (General Practitioners) covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of ongoing medical treatment. In recent years, however, more and more organisations have been involving GPs 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 the information provided to them is true and accurate.

It is important to understand that many GPs are not employed by the NHS; they are self-employed, and they must 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.

The British Medical Association (BMA) suggest fees for non-NHS work, which is not covered under the NHS GP contract, to help GPs set their own professional fees. However, the fees are guidelines only and a doctor is not obliged to charge the rates suggested. The BMA recommends that the surgery tell patients in advance if they will be charged, and how much. It is up the individual GP to decide how much to charge.



The GP will review a request, estimating the time it will take to complete the paperwork. An invoice will then be sent to the patient who is requesting the non-NHS work informing them of the cost. Once the invoice is paid, the GP will complete the paperwork.

Please note:**Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight:**

Urgent requests may mean that a GP has to make special arrangement to process the form quickly, and this will cost more. Please be aware that some reports may take more time, as the GP might have to check the patient's entire medical records. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the GP with the General Medical Council (GMC) or even the police.

Please supply the relevant paperwork or letter outlining your request for completion or if you require a 'for whom it may concern letter', please complete the request form with reception.

You must allow 4 weeks for completion of reports.

You will be contacted when reports are ready for collection. In the past reports and forms have been completed prior to payment and we have sadly found the fee has not been forthcoming we now request that the fee must be paid in advance.

Please note that GP's have no obligation to carry our non-NHS work on behalf of their patients.

While GP's 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. If the GP is unable to complete a form you will be advised of this.

But I only need the GP's signature -what is the problem?

When a GP signs a certificate or completes a report, they are legally required to only sign what they know to be true. In order to complete even the simplest of forms, therefore, the GP needs to check the patient's entire medical record thoroughly. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the GP.

