

Free prescriptions for patients with cancer diagnosis

Information for patients from Cancer Services

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net

Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site www.ekhft.nhs.uk/patientinformation



Are all patients with a cancer diagnosis entitled to free prescriptions?

Patients who are entitled to NHS treatment, and:

- undergoing treatment for cancer, or
- experiencing the effects of cancer, or
- experiencing the effects of treatment for cancer



are entitled to free NHS prescriptions via a medical exemption certificate.

If you are over 60, you do not need to apply, as you are already exempt from prescription charges.

How do I get the exemption certificate?

You can get an application form called a FP92A from your GP surgery or oncology clinic. Your doctor will sign it, and it must be returned to the address on the application form.

How long does the certificate last? And, what does it cover?

The certificate is valid for five years and covers all NHS prescriptions (whether or not they are for conditions related to your cancer). You do not have to return the certificate during this time, even if your condition changes.

How long will it take to arrive? What do I do about prescription charges in the meantime?

Once the application is received, your certificate should be issued within seven to 10 days. If you need to get a prescription before the certificate arrives, ask the pharmacy for an NHS receipt (FP57) and a refund claim form. Once the certificate arrives, take the claim form, certificate, and receipts to the pharmacy to claim your refund.

Further information

For further information see www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1638.aspx