

FIXED PENALTY SCHEME

Every year in Northern Ireland people help themselves to millions of pounds of Health Service money by incorrectly claiming help with charges for dental treatment, sight tests and glasses. Whether claimed intentionally or in error the consequence is less funds for patient care.

The Fixed Penalty Charges Scheme will address this issue and help put Health Service money back where it belongs.

Most people are honest. They are correctly entitled to help and claim properly. However if you incorrectly claim help with health costs you may have to pay penalty charges.

How much is the Penalty Charge?

A Penalty Charge could result in you having to pay up to a maximum of £100, and it must be paid within 28 days.

If you fail to pay the Penalty Charge you may incur a surcharge of 50% of the Penalty Charge.

These penalty charges are payable in addition to the original treatment charge.

REPORTING HEALTHCARE FRAUD

Anyone can report a suspicion of fraud against the Health Service in Northern Ireland. If you have a genuine concern you can report your suspicions, in confidence if you prefer, to the freephone HSC Fraud Hotline.


Alternatively you can report online using our fraud reporting form.

All reports are investigated by a dedicated team of counter fraud specialists.

Call the HSC Fraud Hotline
0800 096 33 96
or report online at
www.reporthealthfraud.hscni.net

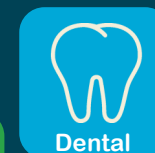
Contact Us

 **0800 5878 982**

 Counter Fraud and Probity Services
Business Services Organisation
Pinewood Villa
73 Loughgall Road
ARMAGH
BT61 7PR

If you require this document in an alternative format such as large print, braille or in a minority language please contact the number above.

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO HELP WITH HEALTH COSTS ?



What are Health Charges?

These are the contributions patients make towards the cost of Health Service dental treatment or when they visit an optician to have their eyes tested or get glasses or contact lenses.

Do I have to pay?

Yes. However many patients are exempt or receive an allowance towards their health charges on the grounds of age, low income, some medical conditions or if they are in receipt of certain Social Security benefits or Tax Credits.

Routine checks are carried out by the Business Services Organisation. If you claim help with health costs you may be contacted in the course of these checks.

How can I find out if I am entitled to help?

You can use the chart overleaf or for further assistance you can phone the Northern Ireland Patient Charges Advice Line on 0800 5878 982. Calls made from a UK landline are free.

Special Notes

† FTE = Full time education. In order to qualify under full time education you must be under 19 years of age and undertaking a full time course. This also applies to home schooling.

* A charge may be applicable depending on your circumstances.

§ A refund may be applicable from the War Pensions Agency if the treatment is for the pensionable disability.

Exemption Categories	DENTAL	SIGHT TEST	GLASSES/ CONTACT LENSES
Age Grounds			
Under 16	Free	Free	Voucher allowance
Age 16-17	Free	Free (if in FTE) [†]	Voucher allowance (if in FTE) [†]
Age 18	Free (if in FTE) [†]	Free (if in FTE) [†]	Voucher allowance (if in FTE) [†]
Age 19-59	Charge applicable	Charge applicable	Charge applicable
Age 60+	Charge applicable	Free	Charge applicable
Benefits			
You or your partner receive Income Support, Income-based ESA or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance	Free	Free	Voucher allowance
You or your partner receive Pension Credit Guarantee Credit	Free	Free	Voucher allowance
You are named on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate	Free	Free	Voucher allowance
You are named on a valid HC2 certificate	Free	Free	Voucher allowance
You are named on a valid HC3 certificate	Charge applicable [*]	Charge applicable [*]	Charge applicable [*]
Others			
Pregnant or nursing mothers (baby born within the previous 12 months)	Free	Charge applicable	Charge applicable
Diabetes	Charge applicable	Free	Charge applicable
Registered blind or partially sighted	Charge applicable	Free	Charge applicable
Diagnosed glaucoma patient	Charge applicable	Free	Charge applicable
40 years or over and at risk of glaucoma	Charge applicable	Free	Charge applicable
You hold an Exemption certificate issued by the War/MoD Pensions Agency	Charge applicable [§]	Charge applicable [§]	Charge applicable [§]