

Low Income Scheme

If you do not automatically qualify for help with health costs, you may qualify for help under the NHS Low Income scheme.

To qualify for full help with NHS charges and vouchers for glasses (with a HC2 certificate) you will need to have: -

- less than £16,000 in capital (or £23,500 if you live in a care home)
- income which is less than your requirements, plus 50% of the NHS prescription charge. Your requirements are;
 - the amount you would be entitled to if you were claiming Income Support, or Pension Credit or Universal Credit (as a jobseeker):
 - plus housing costs and council tax

Example

Alan aged 65 has £5,000 in savings and is receiving State Retirement Pension of £164.35, he no longer has a mortgage. This is £1.35 a week higher than his Pension Credit entitlement. As this excess income is less than half of the current prescription charge (currently £8.80 per item), Alan would be entitled to full help with NHS charges.



Can I get any help if my income is higher?

If your income is higher than your requirements plus 50% of the prescription charge, you will not be entitled to free prescription but you may be entitled to help towards travel to hospital, dental charges and vouchers for glasses. You will receive a HC3 Certificate.

How do I apply under the Low Income Scheme?

Download a HC1 form from www.nhs.uk or Phone the low income scheme helpline on 0300 330 1343 to request a HC1 form.

Prepayment Prescription Certificates

If you need more than 1 prescription a month you will benefit from purchasing a prepayment prescription certificate.
£29.10 for a 3 month certificate
£104 for a 12 month certificate

Apply online at www.nhs.uk or
Call the PPC order line on 0300 330 1341

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444

Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system
www.snsca.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
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Help With NHS Charges

Who qualifies for...

- Free prescriptions
- Help with dental charges
- Help with charges for eye tests and glasses

April 2018



LOTTERY FUNDED

Who qualifies for help?

You will **automatically qualify** for free prescriptions, free eye-tests, vouchers for glasses, free dental treatment and travel to hospital if you are receiving one of the following benefits: -

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with a disability element and your relevant income is £15,276 or less per year.
- Universal Credit and your income is less than
 - £435 per month for single people and couples; or
 - £935 a month if you have children

Contributions-based JSA and contributory ESA do not give automatic entitlement to help with health costs.

Free prescriptions

You will also be entitled to free prescriptions if you are: -

- under 16 or under 19 and still in full-time education; or you are
- aged 60 or over.

You can also apply for an exemption certificate for free prescriptions if: -

- you are pregnant or have given birth within the previous 12 months;
- you are a war pensioner;
- you are undergoing treatment for cancer
- you have a continuing physical disability that prevents you leaving home without the help of another person
- you have a permanent fistula (e.g. a colostomy) which requires dressings or an appliance
- you suffer from one of the following conditions:
 - diabetes mellitus (except where treatment is by diet alone);
 - myxoedema (under active thyroid);
 - hypoparathyroidism;
 - diabetes insipidus;
 - hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease);
 - myasthenia gravis;
 - epilepsy requiring anti-convulsive therapy.



Eye tests and glasses

You will also be entitled to a free eye test and vouchers for glasses or contact lenses if you are: -

- under 16 or under 19 and still in full-time education; or you are
- are a prisoner on release from prison; or you
- need complex or powerful lenses with one lens at least plus or minus 10.

You will be entitled to free eye tests if you are: -

- aged 60 or over;
- registered blind, severely sight-impaired or partially sighted
- have diabetes or glaucoma, or are aged 40 or over with a close relative who has glaucoma.

Dental Treatment

You will also be entitled to free dental treatment if you: -

- are aged 18 or under or are under 19 and are still in full-time education; or
 - are pregnant or were when you started the treatment;
 - have given birth within the last year;
 - are an NHS in-patient; or
 - are an NHS Hospital Dental Service out-patient
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