

## **NOTES ON CHARGES**

### **2. PHARMACY AND APPLIANCE CONTRACTORS**

Unless a completed declaration of entitlement to exemption or remission (see sections 4 and 5) is made on the prescription form or EPS Token, a charge is payable for each drug or appliance supplied, including each piece of elastic hosiery.

In order to secure exemption or remission from prescription charges, when presenting a prescription form to a pharmacy, or appliance contractor, the patient, or their representative, must complete the declaration on the back of the prescription form or EPS Token. The regulations require them to do so, unless the exemption is for those aged under 16, or 60 and over and the date of birth is printed on the prescription form (see section 5). Patients and their representatives are also not required to make a declaration or sign the back of the form or EPS Token if the item prescribed is provided free-of-charge as provided by legislation i.e. contraceptives (see paragraph 10.1) or treatment for a sexually transmitted infection (see paragraph 10.2). Patients and their representatives are not required to make a declaration or sign the back of the form or EPS token if a real time exemption check by the pharmacy or appliance contractor of electronic records that are managed by the NHS BSA for the purposes (amongst other purposes) of providing advice, assistance and support to patients or their representatives in respect of whether a charge is payable under these Regulations has confirmed that no charge is to be made and recovered.

Patients, or their representatives, are required to sign the prescription form or EPS Token to declare that a charge has been paid. Patient charges are retained by the dispensing practitioner whose payment for provision of pharmaceutical services is adjusted accordingly.

In Wales: From 1 April 2007 there is no longer any requirement for a patient or their representative to sign the declaration on the reverse of a WP10 to be exempt from paying a prescription charge. However, if a patient presents an FP10 for dispensing in a Welsh pharmacy and it is not accompanied by a valid Entitlement Card then the declaration must be signed in the usual way or a charge paid in accordance with the English regulations made under section 121(1) and (2) of the National Health Service Act 2006.

From 1 November 2020, the need for patient signatures on prescription, dental and general ophthalmic services forms has been temporarily suspended until 31 March 2021. Contractors are asked to confirm a patient's eligibility for free prescriptions and mark this on the FP10 form or EPS token, on behalf of the patient. Patients should continue to be asked to produce evidence of entitlement or the FP10 or EPS token can be marked with "evidence not seen".

### **3. DISPENSING DOCTORS**

Unless a completed declaration of entitlement to exemption or remission (see sections 4 and 5) is made on the prescription form, the charges set out at (1) above are payable in respect of each item supplied by a dispensing doctor. In order to secure exemption or remission from prescription charges when presenting a prescription form to a dispensing doctor, the patient, or a person on his behalf, must complete the declaration on the back of the prescription form. The regulations require them to do so, unless the exemption is for those aged under 16, or 60 and over and the date of birth is printed on the prescription form (see section 5). Patients and their representatives are also not required to make a declaration or sign the back of the form if the item prescribed is provided free-of-charge as provided by legislation i.e. contraceptives (see paragraph 10.1) or treatment for a sexually transmitted infection (see paragraph 10.2). Patients and their representatives are not required to make a declaration or sign the back of the form or EPS token if a real time exemption check by the doctor of electronic records that are managed by the NHS BSA for the purposes (amongst other purposes) of providing advice, assistance and support to patients or their representatives in respect of whether a

charge is payable under these Regulations has confirmed that no charge is to be made and recovered.

Patients, or their representatives, are required to sign the prescription form to declare that a charge has been paid. Charges are retained by the dispensing practitioner whose payment for provision of pharmaceutical services is adjusted accordingly.

In Wales: From 1 April 2007 there is no longer any requirement for a patient or their representative to sign the declaration on the reverse of a WP10 in order to secure exemption from paying a prescription charge.

When an item dispensed by a dispensing doctor is delivered to a patient outside the surgery, every reasonable effort should be made to obtain a signed declaration from the patient that they have either paid the charge or are exempt (except for any patients aged under 16, or 60 and over).

However, there will be occasions when repeat prescriptions are delivered to points outside the surgery, or for example for collection from village shops in rural areas. Where a patient is exempt from charges and it is not practical for the patient to sign the form, a dispensing doctor or responsible member of the practice team should mark the reverse of the form as "remote delivery" and sign the form.

From 1 November 2020, the need for patient signatures on prescription, dental and general ophthalmic services forms has been temporarily suspended until 31 March 2021. Contractors are asked to confirm a patient's eligibility for free prescriptions and mark this on the FP10 form or EPS token, on behalf of the patient. Patients should continue to be asked to produce evidence of entitlement or the FP10 or EPS token can be marked with "evidence not seen". Where patients would sign the FP10 form or EPS token, contractors are asked to annotate the form with Covid-19.