

NHS maternity exemption certificate guidance

Digital maternity exemption service

If you are a healthcare professional, you can complete an online application to issue maternity exemption certificates to your patients at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/digitalmatex

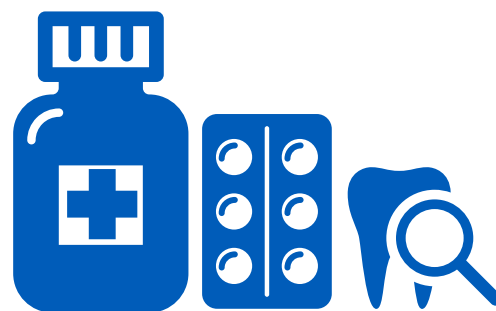
 [Register](#)

 [Sign in](#)

About the NHS maternity exemption certificate

A maternity exemption certificate entitles the patient to free NHS prescriptions.

Patients are entitled to free NHS dental treatment if, they are pregnant or have had a baby in the last 12 months. They can use their certificate as proof of entitlement while they are pregnant.



Who is entitled?

Your patient is entitled to a maternity exemption certificate if, at the time of application, she is pregnant or has given birth to a live child or a child registerable as still born within the last 12 months.

What if my patient has a miscarriage or stillbirth?

Your patient can continue to use her certificate for free NHS prescriptions.

She is still entitled to free NHS dental treatment if this happened during, or after, her 24th week of pregnancy.

Certificate

Your patient can receive a digital or paper certificate.

Patients will get their digital certificate straight away if they have given an email address. Otherwise, they will get a paper certificate in the post within 10 working days.

When will the certificate start?

The certificate will start one month before the date you submit the digital application.

As long as the certificate covers the date they collect their items, your patient can get their NHS prescriptions for free.

They should mark box 'D' on the prescription form and sign the declaration.

They may need to show their certificate as evidence that their exemption is valid. They can still collect their NHS prescription for free if they do not have their certificate with them.

When will the certificate expire?

Your patient's certificate will expire 12 months after either:

- baby's due date
- the birth of her baby

Patient information

Your patient can use the NHS eligibility checker to see if she can get help with other health costs at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check

For more information about the maternity exemption certificate your patient can visit www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex

To replace a lost certificate or report changes of circumstances, including extending the expiry date if baby is born later than expected, your patient should contact us at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us or call 0300 330 1341. We offer a telephone translation service if English is not their first language.

If your patient pays for an NHS prescription charge, they can get a refund if:

- they get an NHS refund form (FP57) when they pay for their NHS prescription, they can't get one later
- their certificate covers the date they paid for their NHS prescription.

The FP57 tells them how to claim. They need to apply for a refund within three months of paying the prescription charge.

If your patient currently holds a valid NHS Prescription Prepayment Certificate, they may be entitled to a refund. For refund details, including eligibility and the time limit for claiming, patient can go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc

Digital maternity exemption service support

If you have any questions about the digital maternity exemption service email nhsbsa.healthcosts@nhs.net



Check if an application was successful

You can check if your patient has a valid exemption certificate at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption

If no exemption is found, reprocess the application.

Registering if you are a GP

GPs cannot currently self-register online. If you're a GP, you can still use this service if you have an email address with an organisation that:

- meets the [secure email standard](#)
- uses Office 365 or a Hybrid Exchange email service

You can check if your organisation's email meets these requirements with your IT department.

If it does, email nhsbsa.healthcosts@nhs.net with your:

- name
- GMC number
- organisational email address

We will use these details to verify your professional identity and process your registration.

Registering without an NHS Electronic Staff Record (ESR)

You can still register to use this service if you're a midwife, practice nurse or health visitor and have an email address with an organisation that:

- meets the [secure email standard](#)
- uses Office 365 or a Hybrid Exchange email service

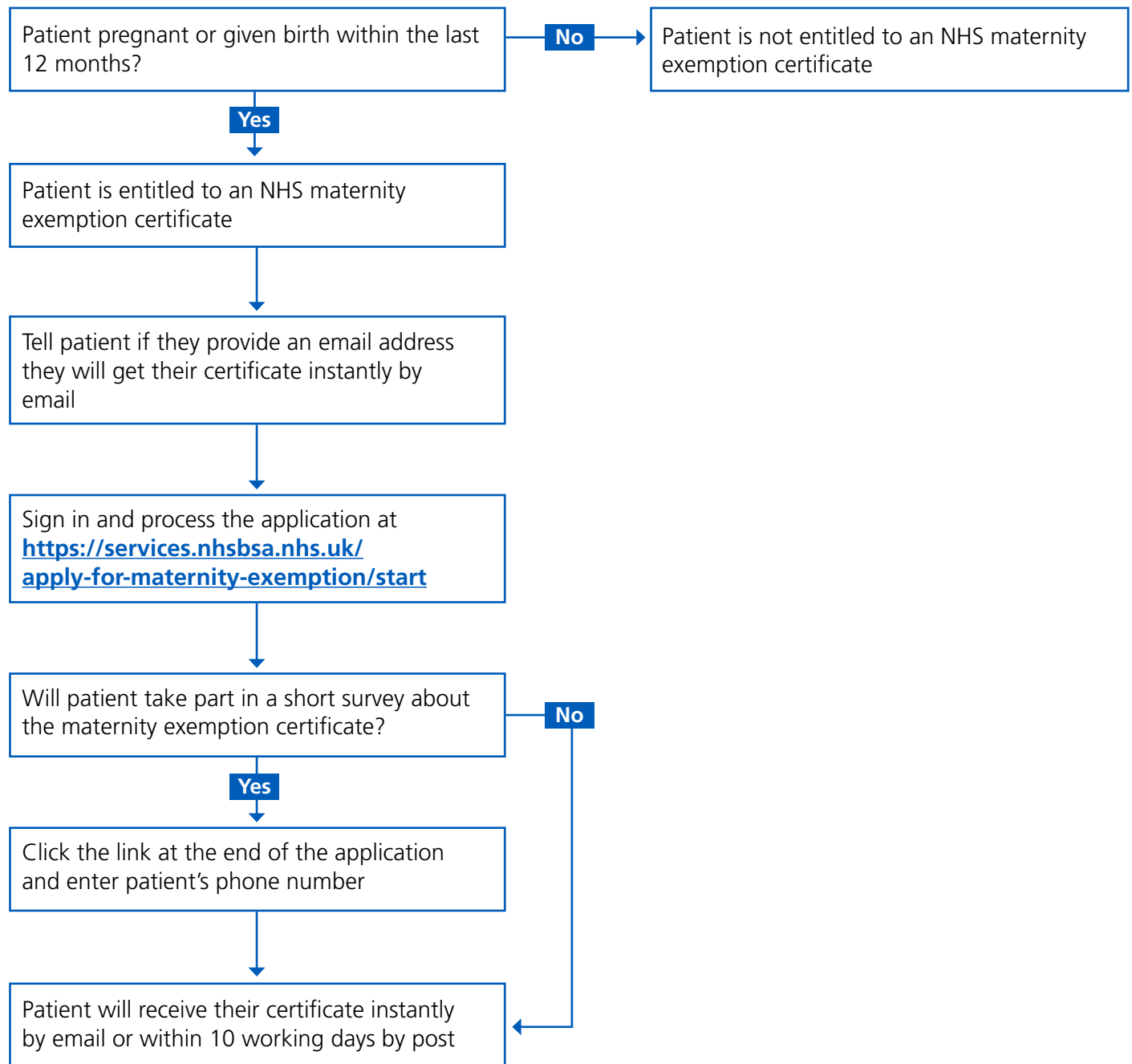
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- name
- NMC number
- organisational email address

We will use these details to verify your professional identity and process your registration.

NHS maternity exemption certificate process



If you notice an error in the application, ask your patient to contact us straightaway at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us or by calling **0300 330 1341**.