

Are you claiming free dental treatment?

Don't assume you're entitled.

If you claim when
you're not entitled,
even by mistake, you
could face a **penalty
charge of £100** plus the
cost of your treatment.

See inside for
more information.



Check before you tick



When are you entitled to free dental treatment?

Your age and circumstances

You're entitled to free dental treatment if, when the treatment starts, you are:

- Under 18
- Under 19 and in full-time education
- Pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months
- Staying in an NHS hospital and your treatment is carried out by the hospital dentist
- An NHS Hospital Dental Service outpatient (however, you may have to pay for your dentures or bridges).

Certain benefits



You're also **entitled to free dental treatment if**, when the treatment starts, you are named on a claim for:

- Income Support
- **Income-related** Employment and Support Allowance
- **Income-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit **Guarantee Credit**
- Universal Credit and for the last assessment period there were no earnings or earnings within the allowed limit
- A valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate
- A valid HC2 Certificate



You're **not entitled** to free dental treatment if, when the treatment starts, you are named on a claim for:

- Incapacity Benefit
- **Contribution-based** Employment and Support Allowance
- **Contribution-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Council Tax Benefit
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit **Savings Credit**, when paid on their own
- Medical conditions

Proving you're entitled to free dental treatment

If you're entitled to free dental treatment, you'll be asked to show written proof that you don't have to pay for your treatment. You'll also be asked to sign a form.

Checks are made on free treatment claims. If you claim when you're not entitled, even by mistake, you could face a **penalty charge of £100 plus the cost of your treatment**. That's why it's important you know your entitlement before you visit the dentist.

Help with dental costs

If you have applied to the NHS Low Income Scheme and have been issued with a HC3 certificate, you may be able to get help with the cost of your dental treatment.

You can apply for the NHS Low Income Scheme if your savings, investments or property (not including where you live) are **no more than £16,000**, or no more than **£23,250 if you permanently live in a care home**. Find out how to apply at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/lowincomescheme

What are the charges if you need to pay for your dental treatment?

The cost for your dental treatment depends on what you need to have done to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy. If you're not exempt from charges, you will only ever be asked to pay one charge for each complete course of treatment, even if you need to visit your dentist more than once to finish it. It will either be Band 1, Band 2 or Band 3. Dental treatment charges from 24 April 2023:

Band 1 course of treatment **£25.80**

This covers an examination, diagnosis (e.g. X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, a scale and polish if needed, and application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealant. Emergency treatment (when you need to see a dentist immediately) also costs £25.80.

Band 2 course of treatment **£70.70**

This covers everything listed in Band 1 above, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or if your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.

Band 3 course of treatment **£306.80**

This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2 above, plus crowns, dentures and bridges.

What to do in the dental surgery



If you are not entitled to free dental treatment

If you know you're not entitled to free dental treatment, **don't claim**. The dental team will tell you how much you need to pay. If you claim, even by mistake, you could face a **penalty charge of £100 plus the cost of your treatment**.



Still unsure?

If you're not sure whether you're entitled to free dental treatment you should pay the charges and ask for the NHS receipt form FP64, or a receipt that shows the total NHS charge and the date you paid.

If you find out later that you're entitled to free or reduced cost treatment, you can apply for a refund for charges that were part of your NHS treatment. You must make your refund claim within three months of paying. Ask your dentist for a HC5(D) refund form or visit **www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-dental-costs** to download and print.

You can also use the NHS eligibility checker online to find out what help you could get with the cost of your dental treatment and other NHS charges.

Visit **www.nhs.uk/checkbeforeyoutick**



If you're entitled to free dental treatment

Make sure you take your proof of entitlement along to your appointment and tick the right box on the dental form.

For more information

Help with dental costs

www.nhs.uk/healthcosts
0300 330 1343

**Medical and maternity
exemption certificate helpline**
0300 330 1341

**NHS Low Income Scheme
helpline**
0300 330 1343

**NHS Tax Credit Exemption
Certificate helpline**
0300 330 1347

**Prescription prepayment
certificate (PPC) helpline**
0300 330 1341

Benefits information

www.gov.uk/dwp

Pension Service helpline
0800 731 0469

Universal Credit helpline

Universal Credit full service

0800 328 5644

www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit

Jobcentre Plus helpline
Jobseeker's Allowance, Income
Support and Employment and
Support Allowance
0800 169 0310

Tax Credits helpline
0345 300 3900

**This leaflet is available in alternative formats from
www.nhs.uk/checkbeforeyoutick or a braille version can be
obtained by calling 0300 330 1293.**