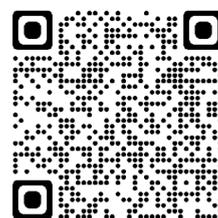


Can you get free NHS prescriptions?

An easy read guide about who is allowed free NHS prescriptions.



www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/freeprescriptions



Scan me

Not everyone is allowed free NHS prescriptions in England. You can find out if you can get free NHS prescriptions using the eligibility checker at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check

What allows you to get free NHS prescriptions?

Your age

You can get free NHS prescriptions if you are:



- Under 16



- 16, 17, or 18 and in full-time education



- 60 or over



Students who are 19 years old should check whether they are allowed free NHS prescriptions.



Students can apply for help through the NHS Low Income Scheme (see page 11).

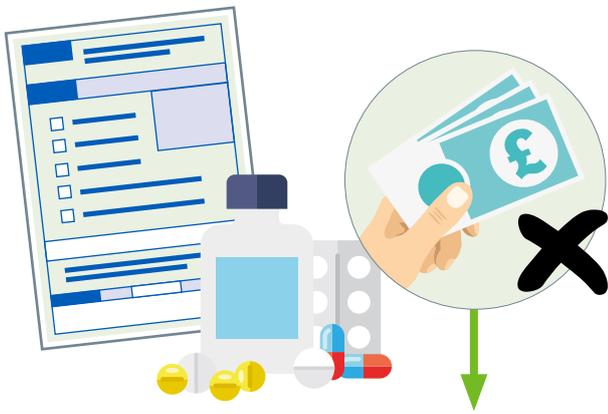
Some benefits



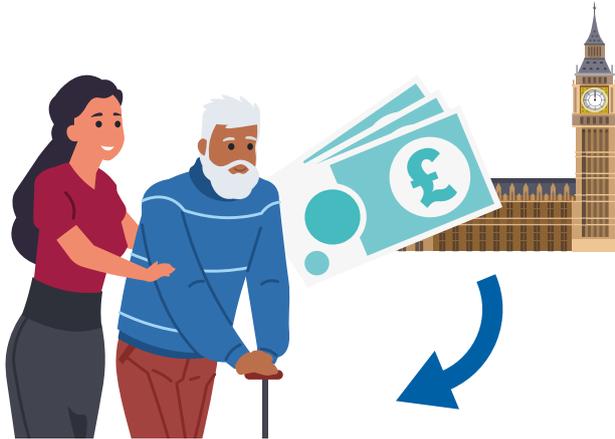
Not all benefits mean you are allowed free NHS prescriptions.



Check which type of benefit you get before you claim.



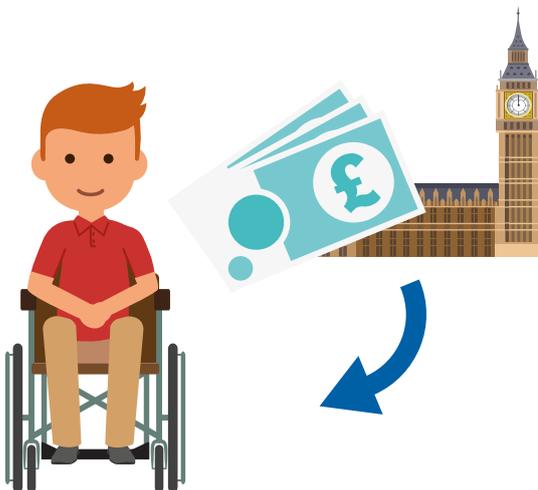
You are allowed free NHS prescriptions if you get:



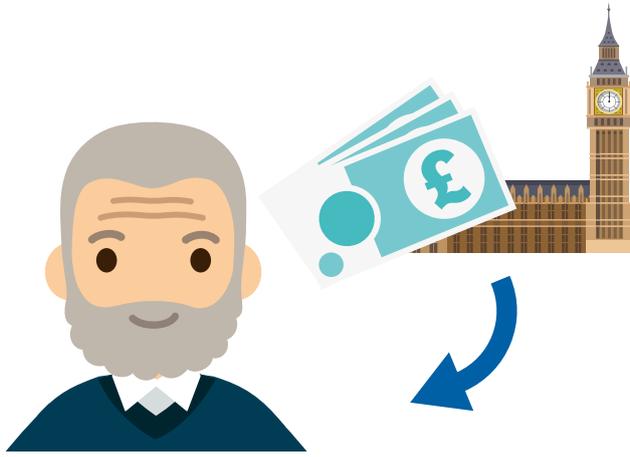
- Income Support



- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance



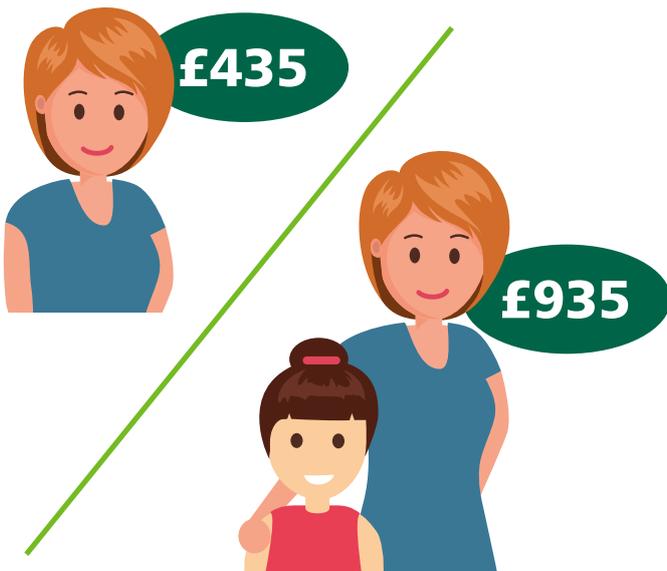
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance



- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) paid on its own, or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit with Savings Credit)

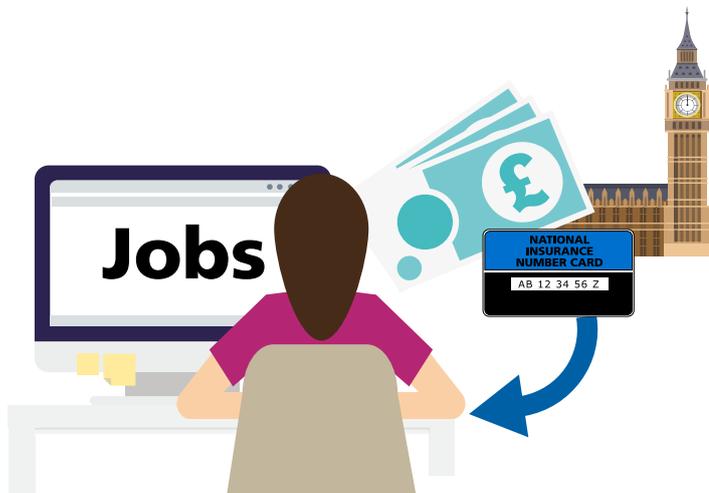


- Some Tax Credits (see page 9)



- Universal Credit if your earnings in your last assessment period were £435 or less, or £935 or less if you get money for a child, or have limited capability for work

These benefits do not give you free NHS prescriptions:



- Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, paid on its own



- Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance, paid on its own

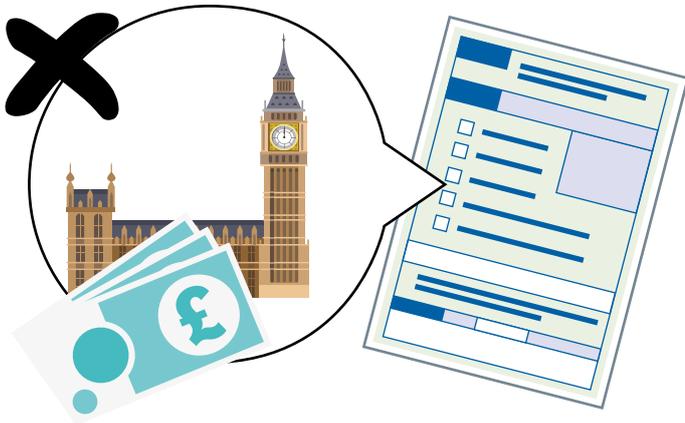
Contribution-based benefits are benefits you have paid money towards through National Insurance.

Most people pay National Insurance when they have a job.



- Pension Credit (Savings Credit) paid on its own.

Savings Credit is an extra payment for people who have saved some money for their pension.



- Any benefit paid on its own and not listed on the back of the prescription (such as State Pension, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, or Incapacity Benefit)

Certificates



- You are allowed free NHS prescriptions if you have one of the following certificates and it is still in date.

NHS maternity exemption certificate



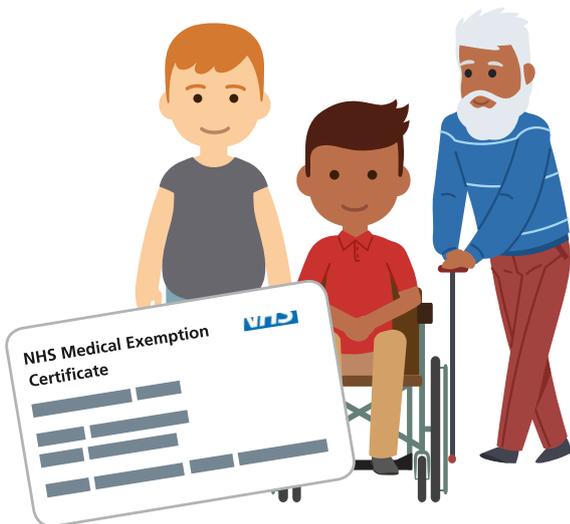
- If you are pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months you can get free NHS prescriptions.

But you must have a maternity exemption certificate.



Ask your doctor, midwife, or health visitor to apply.

NHS medical exemption certificate



If you have a medical condition or physical disability, you are allowed free NHS prescriptions.

But you must have a medical exemption certificate.



To find out if your condition or disability means you get free NHS prescriptions check the list at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/medex



Or check with your doctor.

Ask your doctor to apply.

NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate



You will be sent this certificate if your family income used to work out your tax credits is £15,276 or less a year and you get:



- Child Tax Credit



- Working Tax Credit including a disability element



- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit paid together



You can normally find the annual family income used to work out your Tax Credits on your award notice.

Or, you can call the Tax Credits helpline to ask (see page 24).

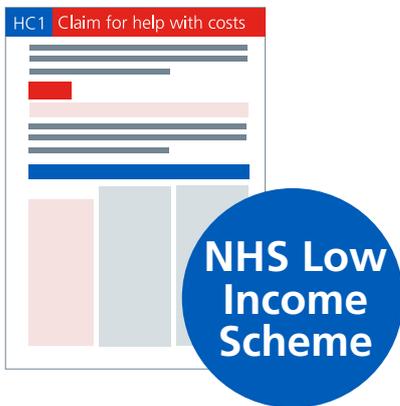


Your partner and any young people included in your claim for tax credits will be allowed free NHS prescriptions while the certificate is in date.



For more information go to:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/taxcredits

HC2 certificate



You may be able to get free NHS prescriptions and help with other NHS charges through the NHS Low Income Scheme.



If you have applied to the NHS Low Income Scheme and have been given an HC2 certificate you are allowed free NHS prescriptions.



Your partner and any dependant children under 19 named on your application will be allowed free NHS prescriptions while the certificate is in date.



Make sure you know what date the certificate runs out.

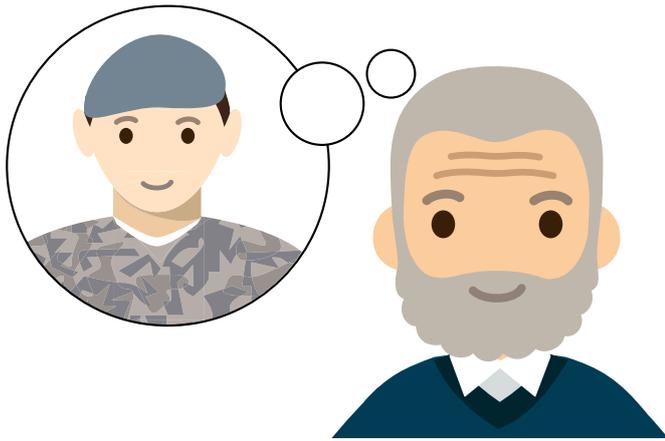


Having an HC3 certificate (which gives some help with health costs) does not mean you can get free NHS prescriptions.



For more information about how to apply, go to:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/lowincomescheme

War pensioners



If you have a War Pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme exemption certificate or a prescription exemption certificate issued by the Ministry of Defence, you can get free NHS prescriptions.



But only if these prescriptions are for medicine that helps with your disability.

 **Veterans
UK**



To apply for a certificate, contact Veterans UK on **0808 1914 218**

NHS Prescription Prepayment Certificate

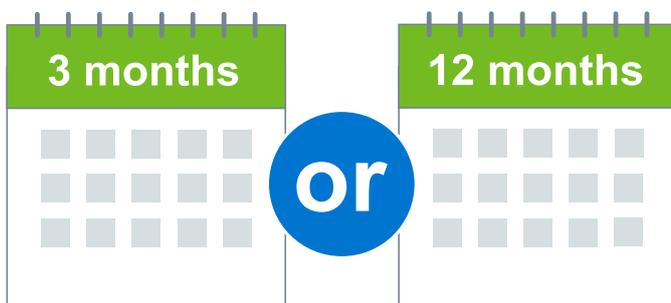


If you pay for regular NHS prescriptions, you could save money by buying an NHS prescription prepayment certificate.

This is sometimes called a PPC.



A PPC lets you get as many NHS prescriptions as you need for one price.



You can get a PPC for 3 months or a PPC for 12 months.

For more information go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc



How to buy a PPC:

Go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc



Call us on **0300 330 1341**



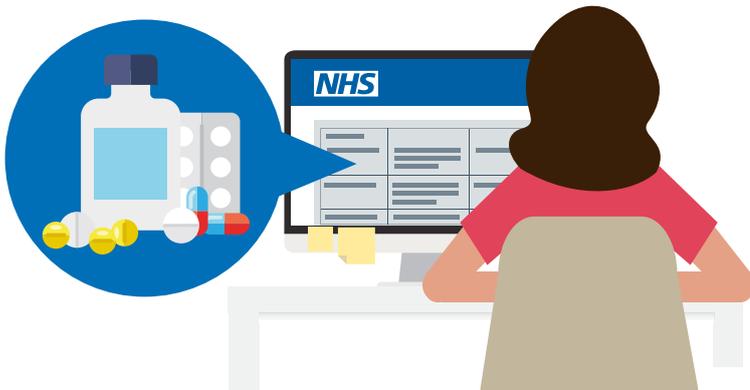
You can also buy PPCs over the counter at some pharmacies.

NHS Hormone Replacement Therapy Prescription Prepayment Certificate



If you pay for hormone replacement therapy prescriptions, you could save money by buying an NHS Hormone Replacement Therapy Prescription Prepayment Certificate.

This is sometimes called an HRT PPC.



An HRT PPC covers certain HRT medicines.

To find out what medicines are covered by the HRT PPC check the list at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc-medicines



How to buy an HRT PPC:

Online:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc

At some pharmacies

If you need help call us on
0300 330 2089.

What to do at the pharmacy

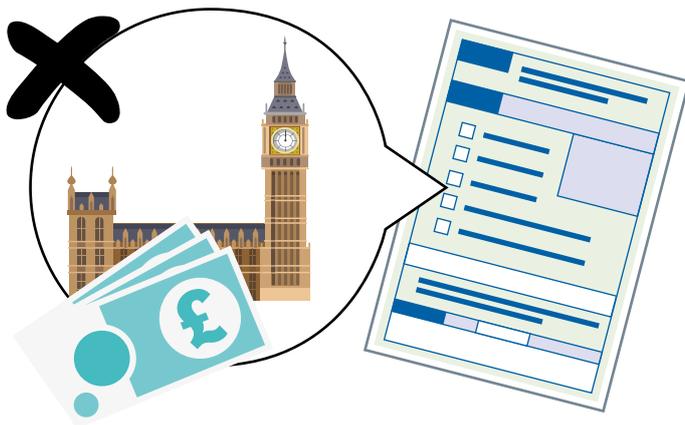


If you have an exemption certificate always check the date to see if you can still use it.



If you claim for a benefit always check whether that benefit means you can get free NHS prescriptions.

If you are not allowed free NHS prescriptions



If you are not allowed free NHS prescriptions do not claim.



If your exemption certificate is out of date do not claim.



Pharmacy staff will tell you how much you need to pay.



If you claim free NHS prescriptions that you are not allowed, or do not hold an exemption certificate for, you might have to pay a penalty charge up to £100.

Not sure



If you are not sure whether you are allowed free NHS prescriptions you should pay and ask the pharmacy staff for an NHS receipt and refund form.

This is also called an FP57.



If you are waiting to find out whether you're allowed free NHS prescriptions you should also pay and get an FP57.



If you find out later that you are allowed free NHS prescriptions and have proof you can get your money back.



The FP57 will tell you what to do.

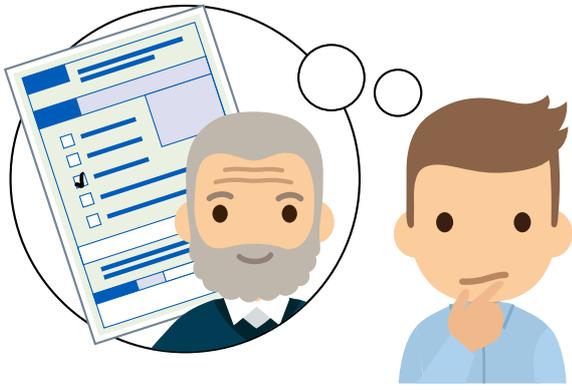


If you are unsure about what to do, ask the pharmacy staff to help you.

If you are allowed free NHS prescriptions



Make sure you tick the right box on the prescription.



If someone else collects the prescription for you, make sure they know which box to tick.



If pharmacy staff ask for proof that you don't have to pay, you can show your:

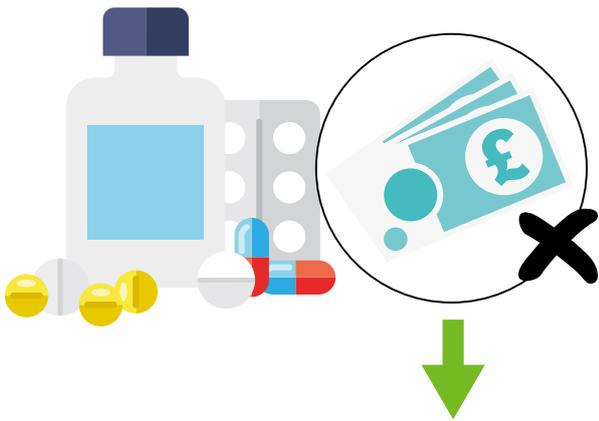


- Benefit entitlement or award letter

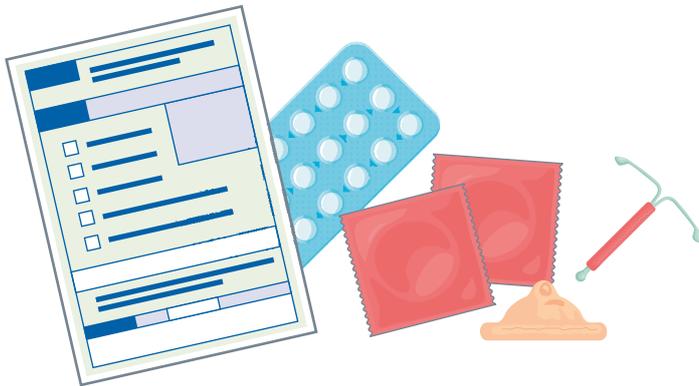


- Exemption certificate

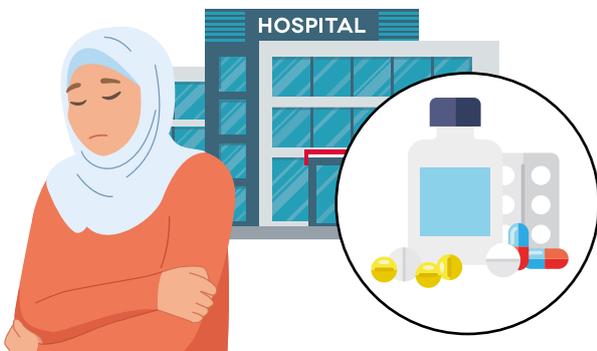
Free medications



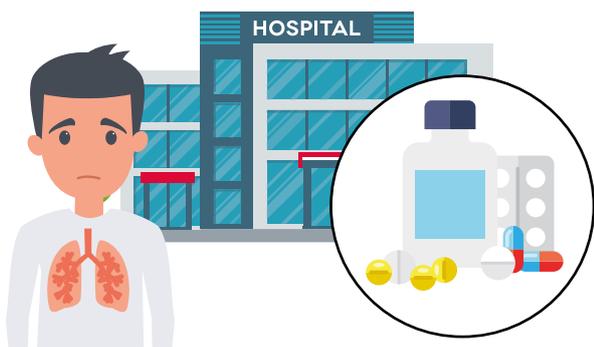
These medications are free for everyone:



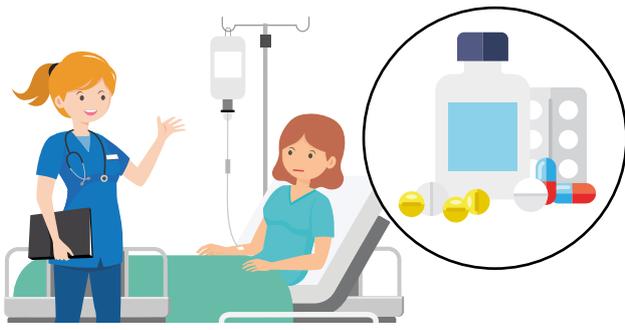
Prescribed contraceptives



Medicines given at an NHS clinic or hospital for the treatment of a mental health problem for people with a supervised community treatment order



Medicines given at an NHS clinic or hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis



Any medicines given at an NHS hospital

Still not sure if you're allowed free NHS prescriptions?



You can answer some questions online to find out if you're allowed free NHS prescriptions and can get help with other NHS charges.

It usually takes 3 minutes. Go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check



If you need support ask someone you trust to help you go online and get the information you need.

This could be a family member, friend, or support worker.

For more information



Contact us using our online form at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us

Medical exemption certificate
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/medex
0300 330 1341

Maternity exemption certificate
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex
0300 330 1341

NHS Low Income Scheme
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/lowincomescheme
0300 330 1343

NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/taxcredits
0300 330 1347

Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC)
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc
0300 330 1341

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) PPC
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc
0300 330 2089





Benefits information
www.gov.uk/dwp

Pension Service helpline
0800 731 0469

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

Universal Credit live service
0800 328 9344

Universal Credit full service
0800 318 5644

Tax Credits helpline
0345 300 3900



The information in this easy read guide was correct as of November 2023. The latest version is available at
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/freeprescriptions

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If you would like this information in a different format please call **0300 330 9291**.