



Eligibility for Free Prescriptions

Due to a recent clamp down on people's eligibility for free prescriptions. Anyone found not eligible will incur a fine of up to £100 and the cost of the original prescription. Check you are eligible before you sign!

You can get free NHS prescriptions if, at the time the prescription is dispensed, you:

- are 60 or over
- are under 16
- are 16-18 and in full-time education
- are pregnant or have had a baby in the previous 12 months and have a valid maternity exemption certificate (MatEx)

You are also entitled to free prescriptions if you or your partner – including civil partner – receive, or you're under the age of 20 and the dependant of someone receiving:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
- Universal Credit and meet the criteria

'The NHS Business Services Authority' delivers the Prescription Exemption Checking Service. Through random retrospective checking, we verify claims for free prescriptions and where a patient has claimed incorrectly, we recover unpaid charges. The patient will be sent a letter explaining that we have been unable to confirm their entitlement at the time the prescription was collected, and unless they can provide proof that they were entitled, they will be required to pay the original prescription charge(s) and an additional penalty charge of up to £100