

Low Income Scheme

If you do not automatically qualify for help with health costs, you may get help under the [NHS Low Income Scheme](#).

To qualify for full help with NHS charges and vouchers for glasses with an HC2 certificate you need to have: -

- less than £16,000 in savings or capital (or under £23,500 if you live in a care home)
- An income less than your requirements plus 50% of the NHS prescription charge.

Your *requirements* are what you would get if you claimed Income Support or Pension Credit, or Universal Credit as a jobseeker, plus your housing costs and council tax.

Example

Alan, aged 68, has £5,000 in savings. He gets State Retirement Pension of **£181.25 per week**. He no longer has a mortgage. His income is **£4.15 a week more** than the single Pension Credit rate, **£177.10 per week**.

As this excess income is **less than half** of the current prescription charge of **£9.35 per item**, Alan would be entitled to **full help** with NHS charges.

Can I get help if my income is higher?

If your income is higher than your requirements plus 50% of the prescription charge, you may get help towards travel to hospital, dental charges and vouchers for glasses. If so, you will receive an HC3 Certificate.

To apply under the Low Income Scheme, download an HC1 form from www.nhs.uk or phone the helpline on **0300 330 1343** to request a HC1 form.

Prepayment Prescription Certificates

If you need more than 1 prescription a month you a prepayment prescription certificate will help.

These cost:

- **£30.25** for a 3 month certificate
- **£108.10** for a 12 month certificate

Apply online at www.nhs.uk or

Call the PPC order line on **0300 330 1341**

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk
or contact our

Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

www.sncab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: search for

Potteries Gold

© April 2021



PotteriesGold

Help With NHS Charges

Benefits and Health No 1



Staffordshire North
& Stoke-on-Trent

This leaflet explains how to qualify for:

- free prescriptions,
- free eye-tests,
- vouchers for glasses,
- free dental treatment and
- travel to hospital

You free prescriptions and these other NHS services if you get:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Pension Credit

You are also entitled to these if you get:

- Working Tax Credit with a disability element or
- Child Tax Credit,

But only if your other income is **£15,276** per year or less.

Universal Credit and you earn under:

- **£435 per month** or
- **£935 a month** if you have **children** or **limited capability for work**.

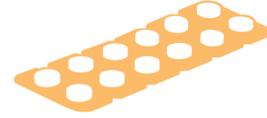
Contribution-based/New-style JSA and **contributory/New-style ESA** do not give you automatic help with health costs.

If you tick the box on the prescription or treatment form for income-based JSA or ESA, but what you actually get is New Style JSA or ESA, you are **likely to get a penalty**.

Free prescriptions

You get free prescriptions if you are: -

- under 16,
- under 19 and in full-time education,
- aged 60 or over.



You can get an **exemption certificate** for free prescriptions if: -

- you are **pregnant** or have given birth within the previous 12 months;
- you are a **war pensioner**;
- you are undergoing treatment for **cancer**
- you have a continuing physical disability that **prevents you leaving home** without the help of another person
- you have a **permanent fistula** (e.g. a colostomy) which requires dressings or an appliance.

You can also get a certificate if you have:

- **diabetes mellitus** (except where treatment is by diet alone);
- **myxoedema** (under active thyroid);
- **hypoparathyroidism**;
- **diabetes insipidus**;
- **hypoadrenalism** (including Addison's disease);
- **myasthenia gravis**;
- **epilepsy** requiring anti-convulsive therapy.

Eye tests and glasses

You are entitled to a **free eye test** and **vouchers for glasses or contact lenses** if you are: -

- under 16,
- under 19 and in full-time education.
- a prisoner on release from prison
- You need complex or powerful lenses with one lens at least plus or minus 10.

You can also get **free eye tests** if you are: -

- aged 60 or over;
- registered blind, severely sight-impaired or partially sighted
- have diabetes or glaucoma, or are aged 40 or over with a close relative who has glaucoma.

Dental Treatment

You can get **free NHS dental treatment** if you:

- are aged 18 or under or are under 19 and are still in full-time education;
- are pregnant or were when you started the treatment;
- have given birth within the last year;
- are an NHS in-patient; or
- are an NHS Hospital Dental Service out-patient

