

Prescription Exemptions

People with certain medical conditions can get free NHS prescriptions if:

- they have one of the conditions listed below, and
- they hold a valid medical exemption certificate

Medical exemption certificates are issued on application to people who have:

- a permanent fistula (for example, a caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy or ileostomy) requiring continuous surgical dressing or requiring an appliance
- a form of hypoadrenalism (for example, Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential
- diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism
- diabetes mellitus, except where treatment is by diet alone
- hypoparathyroidism
- myasthenia gravis
- myxoedema (hypothyroidism requiring thyroid hormone replacement)
- epilepsy requiring continuous anticonvulsive therapy
- a continuing physical disability that means the person can't go out without the help of another person – temporary disabilities don't count, even if they last for several months



They are also issued for people undergoing treatment for cancer:

- including the effects of cancer, or
- the effects of current or previous cancer treatment

Read the medical exemption certificate FAQ: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption-certificates/medical-exemption-certificates>

How to apply for a medical exemption certificate

Ask your doctor for an FP92A form to apply for a medical exemption certificate. Your GP, hospital or service doctor will sign the form to confirm that your statement is correct. At your GP's discretion, a member of the practice who has access to your medical records can also sign the form.

Your certificate will be valid from one month before the date the NHS Business Authority receives the application form.

The MedEx lasts for five years and then needs to be renewed. You may receive a reminder that your certificate needs to be renewed. If you don't receive a reminder, it's your responsibility to make sure it's renewed.

You can find more information about the application process and refunds on the NHS Business Authority website: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption-certificates/medical-exemption-certificates>

Please make absolutely certain that you are eligible if you are claiming exemption of charges and discuss this with the pharmacist if you are not certain.