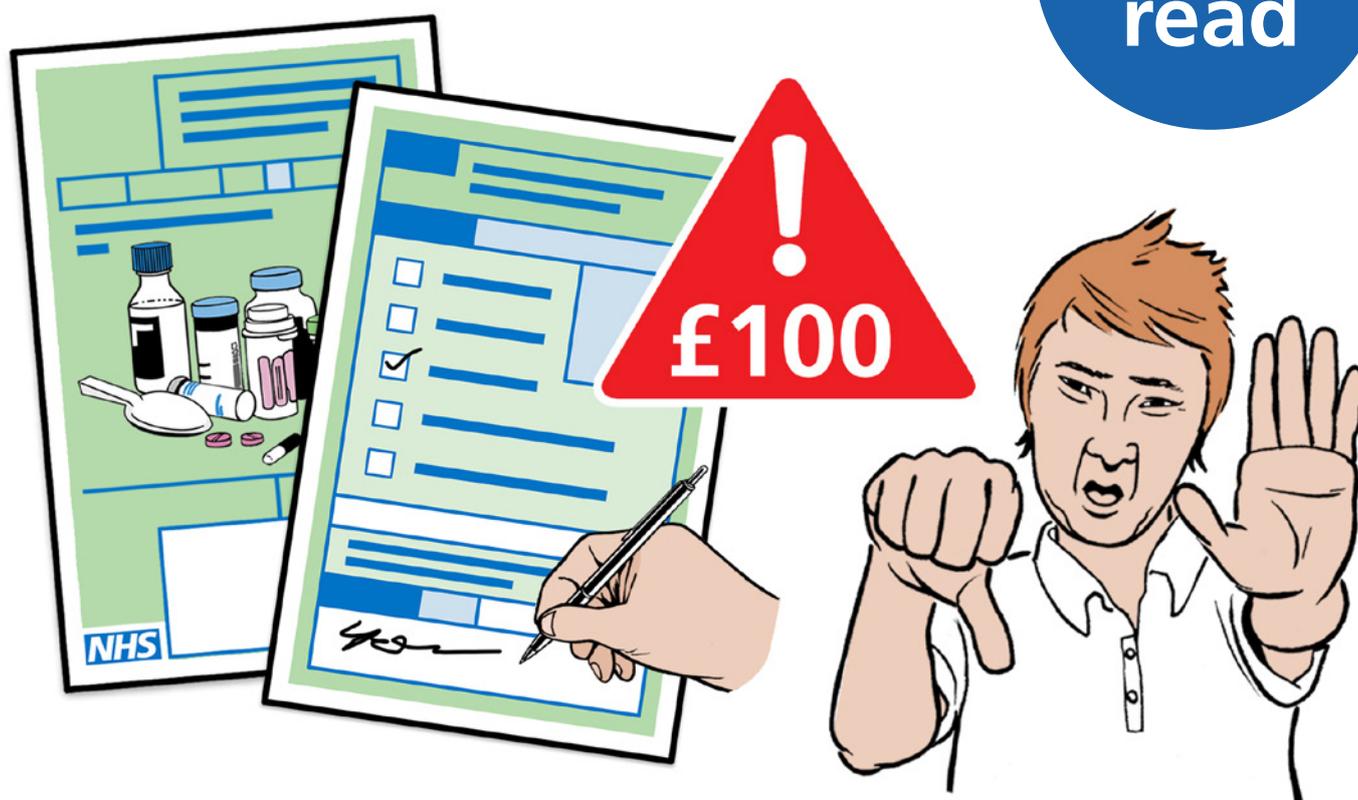


Are you signing for free prescriptions?

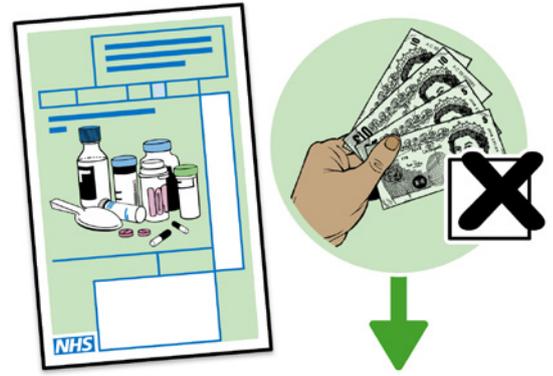
You should check you are allowed free prescriptions.

easy
read



If you are not allowed them and have signed for them, then you might have to pay a £100 penalty charge as well as the cost of the prescription.

What allows you to get free NHS prescriptions?



Your age

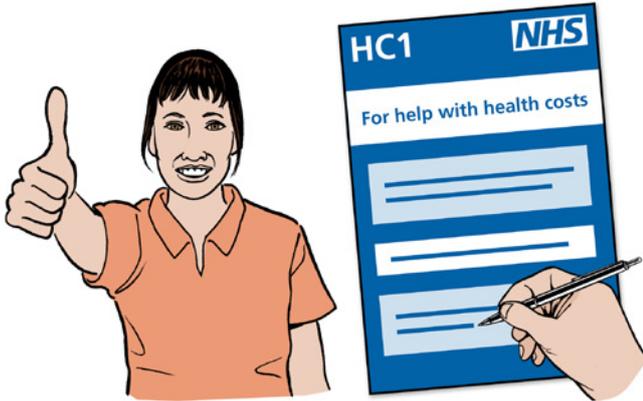


You can get free prescriptions if you are:

- Under 16 years old
- 16, 17, or 18 years old and in full-time education
- 60 years old or over

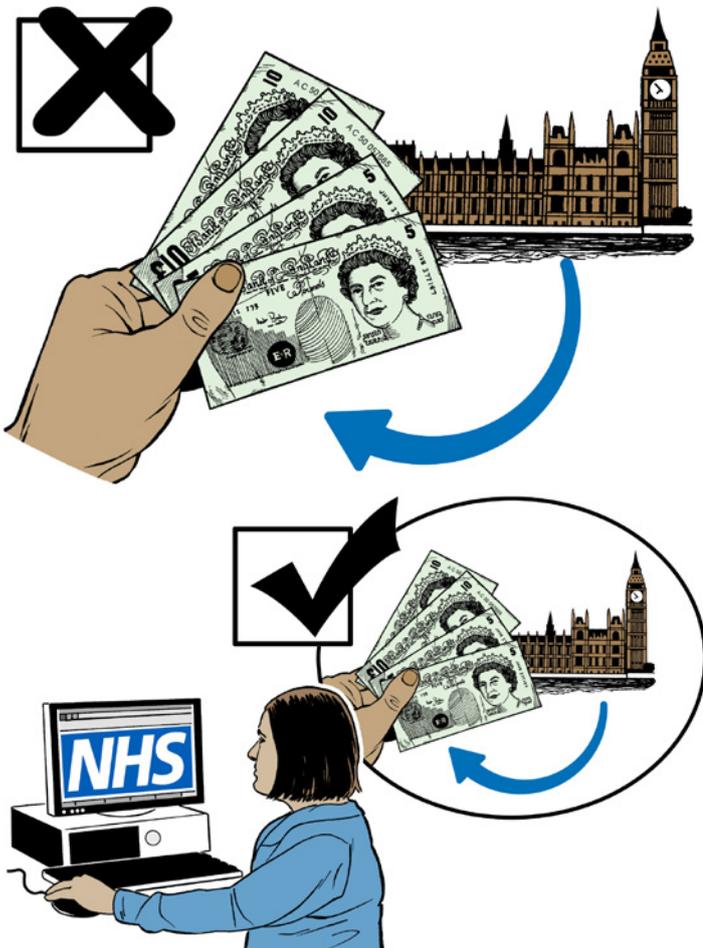


Students who are 19 years old should check whether they are allowed free prescriptions.



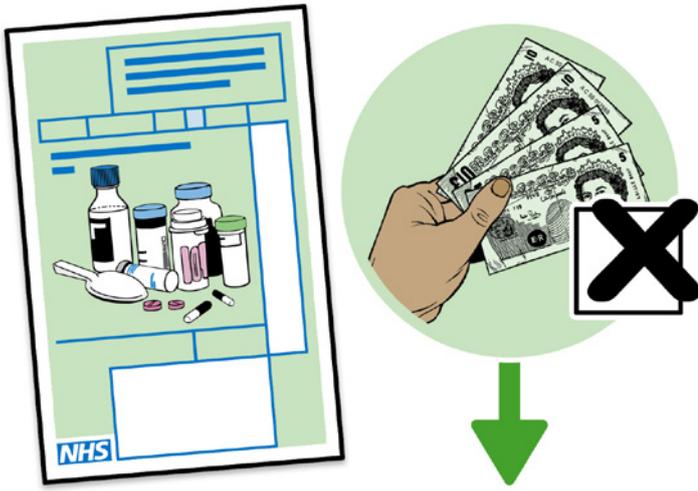
Students can apply for help through the NHS Low Income Scheme (see page 18).

Some benefits



Not all benefits mean you are allowed free prescriptions.

Check which type of benefit you get before you claim.



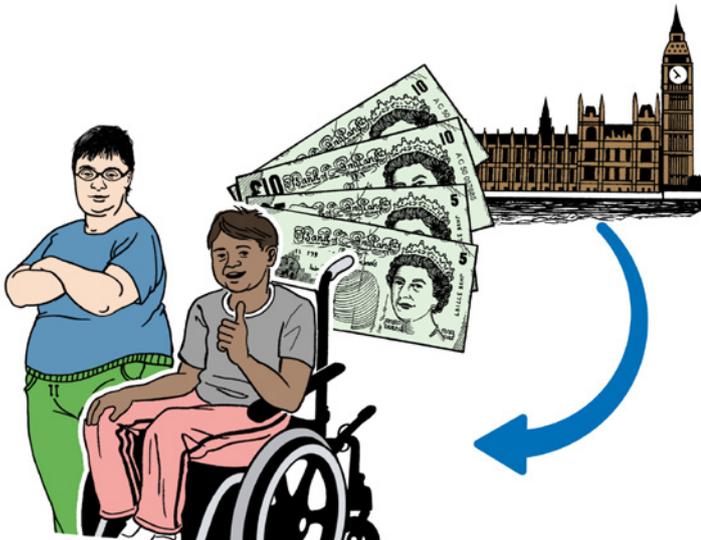
You are allowed free prescriptions if you get:



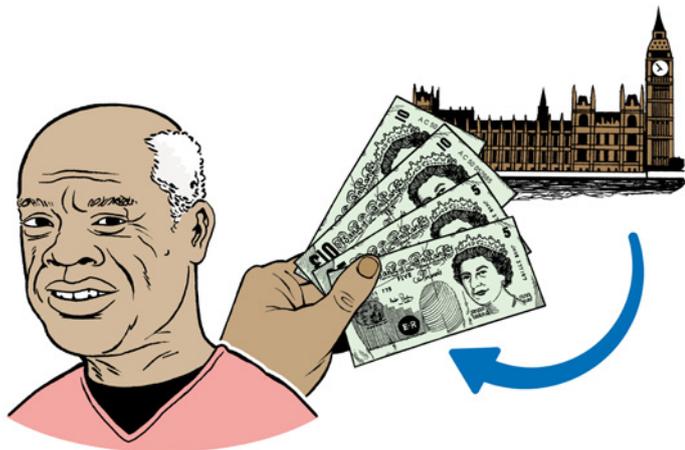
- Income Support



- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance



- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance



Universal Credit



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

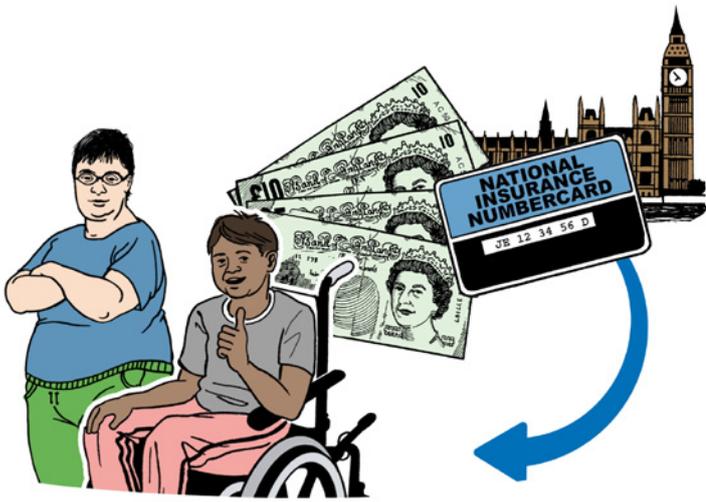
- Some Tax Credits (see page 19)

- 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 and work-related activity

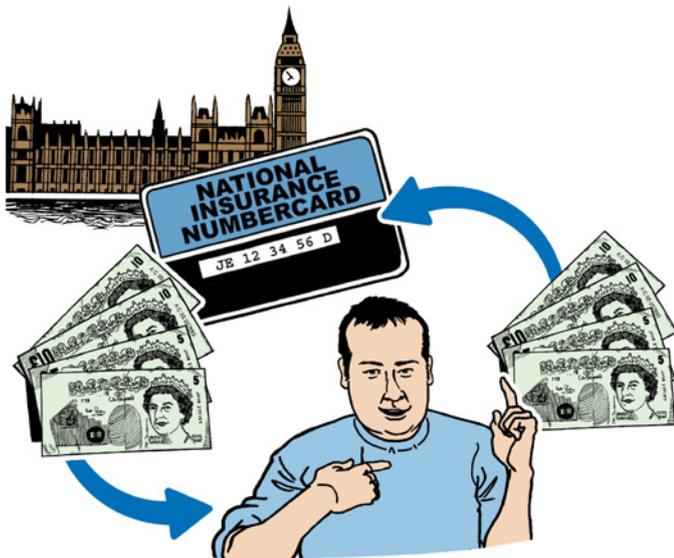
These benefits **don't** give you free prescriptions:



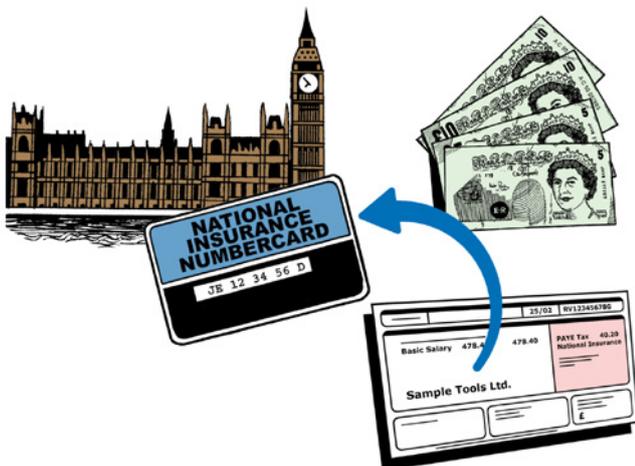
- Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, paid on its own



- 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.

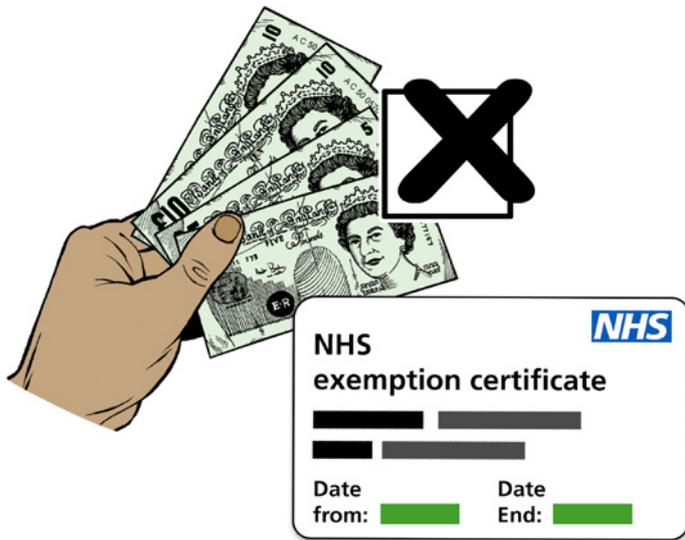


- Pension Credit (Savings Credit) paid on its own.
- Savings Credit is an extra payment for people who have saved some money for their pension.



- Any benefit paid on its own and not listed on the back of the prescription (such as 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 prescriptions.

But you must have a maternity exemption certificate.



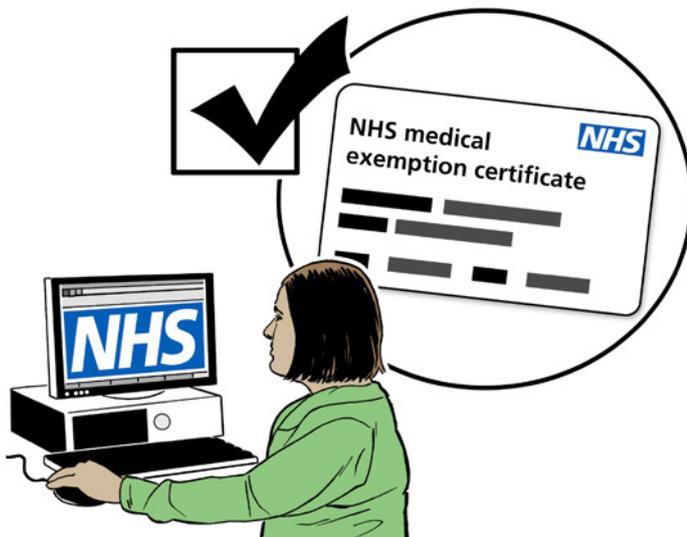
Ask your doctor, midwife, or health visitor how to apply.

NHS medical exemption certificate



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

But you must have a medical exemption certificate.



To find out if your condition or disability means you get free prescriptions check the list at:

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/medex



Or check with your doctor.

You can ask your doctor how to apply.

NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate



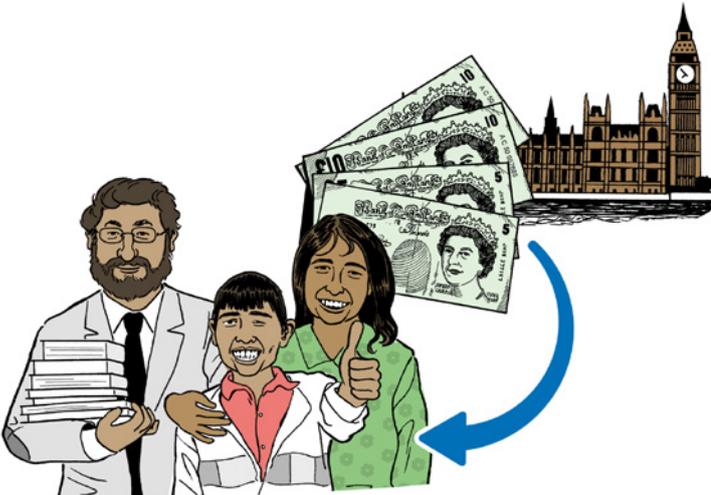
You will be sent this certificate if your family income used to work out your tax credits is £15,276 or less a year and you get:



- Child Tax Credit



- Working Tax Credit including a disability element



- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit paid together

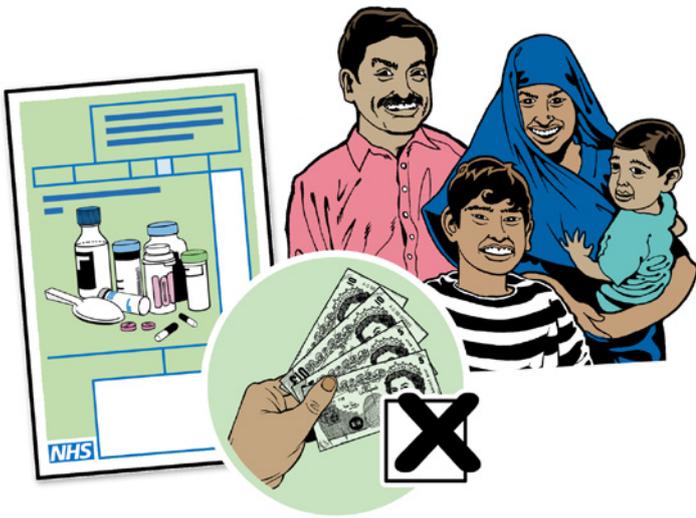


You can normally find the annual family income used to work out your Tax Credits on your award notice.

If you can't, you can call the Tax Credits helpline to ask (see page 24).



A NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate is valid for up to 7 months.

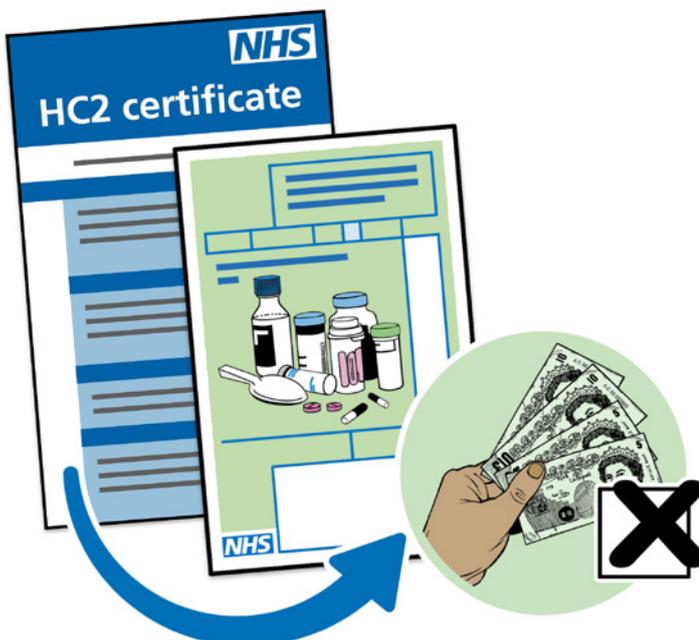


Your partner and any young people included in your claim for tax credits will be allowed free prescriptions.

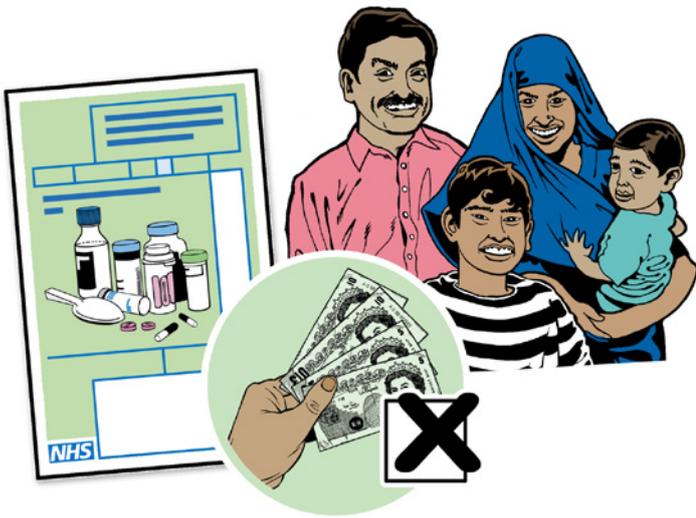


For more information go to:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/taxcredits

HC2 Certificate



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



Your partner and any children under 19 named on your application will be allowed free 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 prescriptions.

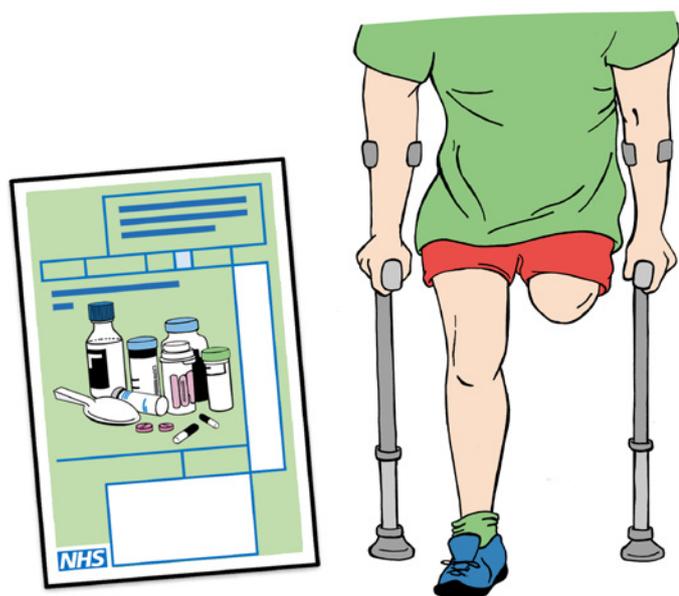


For more information about how to apply, go to:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/lowincomescheme

War pension exemption certificate



If you have a war pension exemption certificate, you can get free prescriptions.



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



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

What to do at the pharmacy

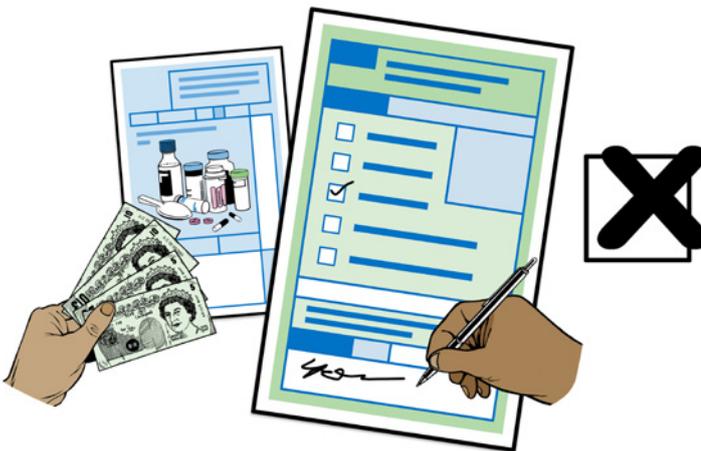


If you have an exemption certificate or prescription prepayment certificate always check the date to see if you can still use it.

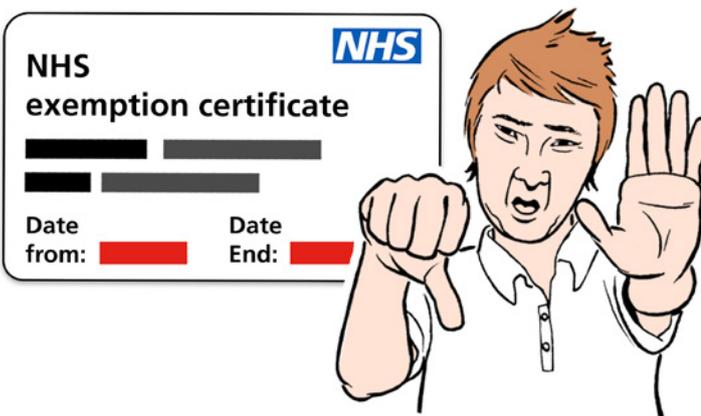


If you claim for a benefit always check whether that benefit means you can get free prescriptions.

If you are not allowed free prescriptions



If you are not allowed free prescriptions don't claim.



If your exemption certificate or prepayment certificate is out of date don't claim.

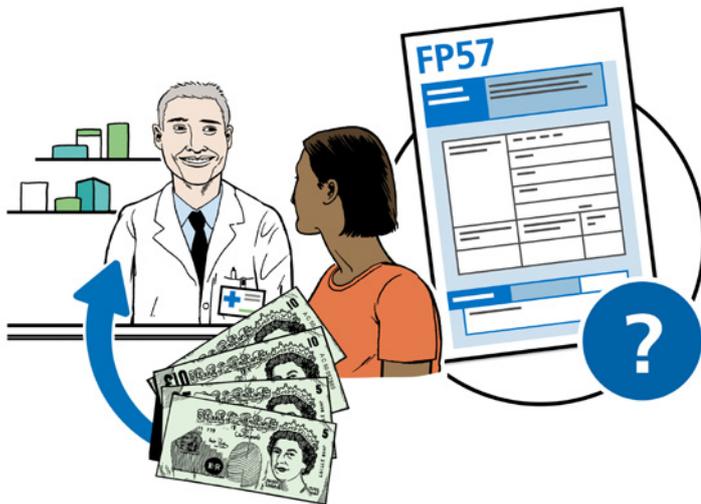


Pharmacy staff will tell you how much you need to pay.



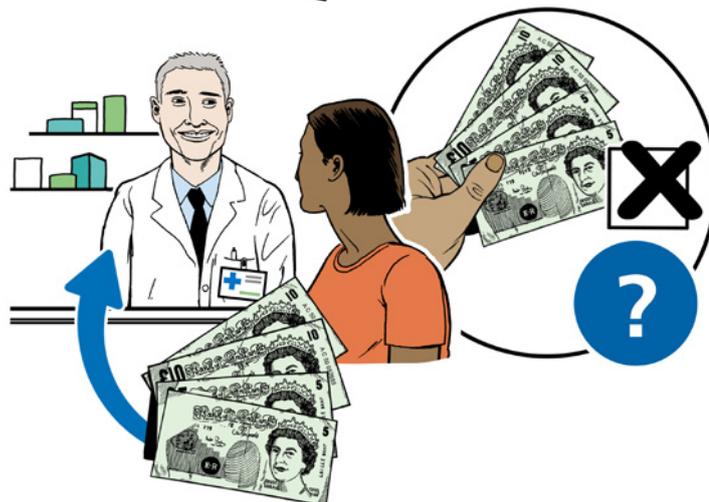
If you claim free prescriptions that you're not allowed, you might have to pay £100 as well as the cost of your prescription.

Not sure



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

This is also called an FP57 form.



If you are waiting to find out whether you're allowed free prescriptions you should also pay.



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

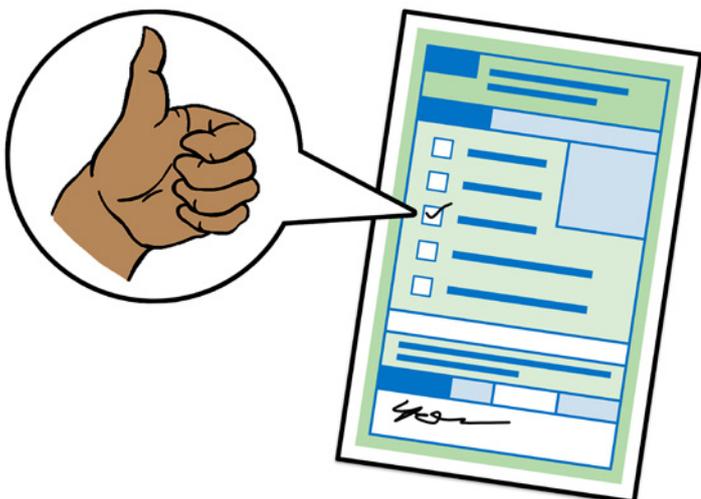


The NHS receipt will tell you what to do.



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

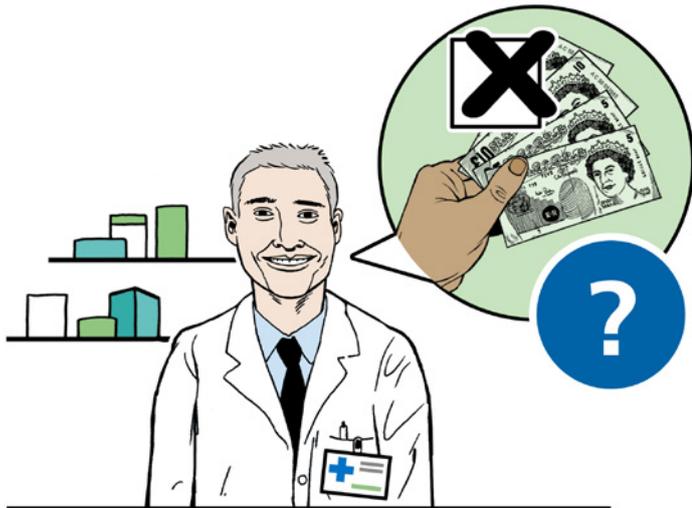
If you are allowed free prescriptions



Make sure you tick the right box on the back of 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:



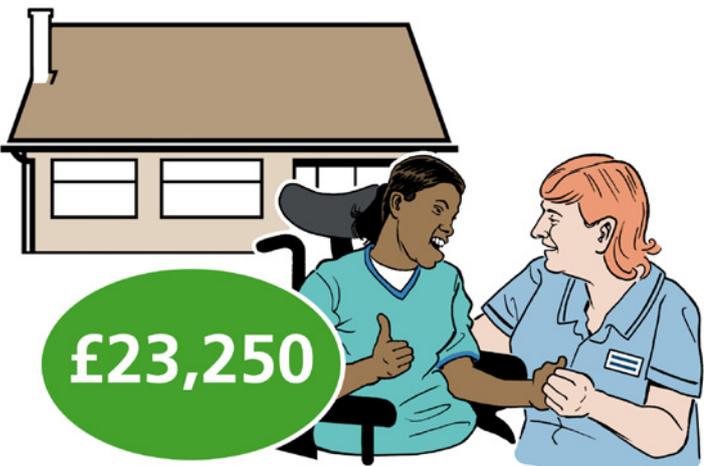
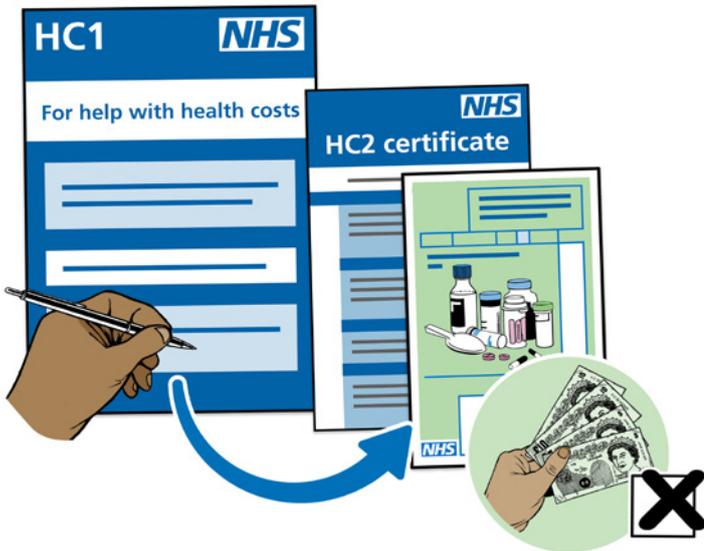
- Benefit entitlement or award letter



- Exemption certificate

Help with prescription costs

HS Low Income Scheme (including students and pensioners)



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

You can apply if your savings, investments or property (not where you live) are £16,000 or less.

Or £23,250 or less if you live in a care home.

Find out more and how to apply at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/lowincomescheme

Prescription prepayment certificates



If you get regular prescriptions, you could save money by buying a 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 buy a PPC for 3 months or a PPC for 12 months.



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



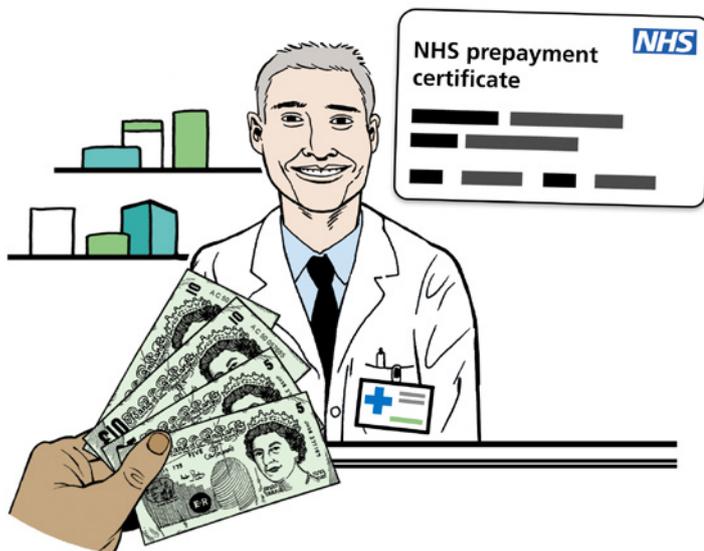
How to buy a PPC:

Go to

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc



Call us on **0300 330 1341**



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



You can find a list of these pharmacies at

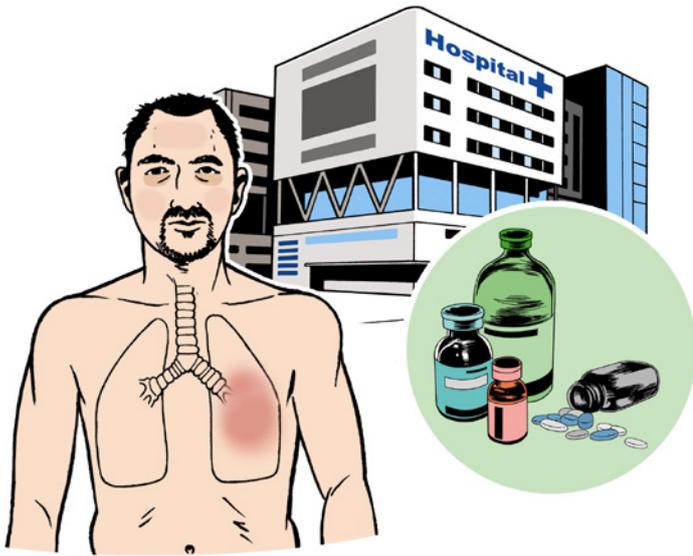
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc

Free medications



These medications are free for everyone:

- Prescribed contraceptives
- Medication to treat a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- 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 prescriptions?



You can answer some questions online to find out what help you could get with the cost of your prescription and other NHS charges.

It takes less than 5 minutes.
Go to
www.gov.uk/help-nhs-costs



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



NHS Help with Health Costs
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts

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



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

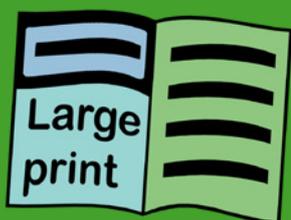
Universal Credit live service
0800 328 9344

Universal Credit full service
0800 318 5644

Tax Credits helpline
0345 300 3900

The information in this easy read guide was correct as of May 2018.
The latest version is available at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/freeprescriptions

© Crown Copyright 2018 Produced by the NHS Business Services
Authority & CHANGE



If you would like this information in a
different format such as large print or
Braille, please call **0300 330 9291**.