

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

National Health Service charges

Thursday 23 February 2012

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns):

Regulations will be laid before Parliament shortly to increase certain National Health Service charges in England from 1 April 2012.

There will be an increase in the prescription charge of 25 pence from £7.40 to £7.65 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed.

The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will remain at £29.10 for a three month certificate. The cost of the annual certificate will remain at £104.

PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months or 14 or more items in one year.

Regulations will also be laid to increase NHS dental charges from 1 April 2012. The dental charge payable for a band one course of treatment will increase by 50p from £17 to £17.50. The dental charge for a band 2 course of treatment will increase by £1 from £47 to £48. The charge for a band 3 course of treatment will increase by £5 from £204 to £209.

Dental charges represent an important contribution to the overall cost of dental services. The exact amount raised will be dependent upon the level and type of primary dental care services commissioned by primary care trusts and the proportion of charge paying patients who attend dentists and the level of treatment they require.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied by hospitals will be also be increased.

The range of NHS optical vouchers available to children, people on low incomes and individuals with complex sight problems are also being increased in value. In order to continue to provide help with the cost of spectacles and contact lenses, optical voucher values will rise by an overall 2.5 per cent.

Details of the revised charges are in the following tables.

NHS Charges - England

	New Charge (£)
Prescription charges	
Single item	7.65
3 month PPC	29.10
12 month PPC	104.00
Dental Charges	
Band 1 course of treatment	17.50
Band 2 course of treatment	48.00
Band 3 course of treatment	209.00
Wigs and Fabrics	
Surgical brassiere	25.70
Abdominal or spinal support	38.80
Stock modacrylic wig	63.35
Partial human hair wig	167.85
Full bespoke human hair wig	245.40

Optical voucher values from 1 April 2012

Type of optical appliance	
A Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of ≤ 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 2 dioptres.	£37.10
B Glasses with single vision lenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres; • spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but ≤ 6 dioptres. 	£56.40
C Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of ≥ 10 dioptres but ≤ 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres.	£82.60
D Glasses with single vision lenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spherical power of > 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; • cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power. 	£186.50
E Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of ≤ 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 2 dioptres.	£64.20
F Glasses with bifocal lenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres; • spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but ≤ 6 dioptres. 	£81.60

G Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of ≥ 10 dioptres but ≤ 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of ≤ 6 dioptres.	£105.80
H Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spherical power of > 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; • cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power. 	£205.10
I (HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 8 for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£191.00