

10 March 2011 (**Amended 19 May 2011**)

To: Chief Executives in all Trusts in England (via The Week)
Directors of Finance in all Primary Care Trusts in England
Pharmaceutical Advisors in all Primary Care Trusts in England
Directors of Commissioning in all Primary Care Trusts in England

Gateway Ref: 15696

Increase in NHS Prescription Charge

The NHS prescription charge will increase from 1 April 2011 by 20 pence per item to £7.40 (£14.80 per pair of elastic hosiery).

INCREASES IN CHARGES FROM APRIL 2011

Item	Current Charges	New charge
Prescription	£7.20	£7.40
3-month PPC	£28.25	£29.10
12-month PPC	£104.00	£104.00
Surgical brassiere	£24.35	25.10
Abdominal or spinal support	£36.80	37.90
Stock modacrylic wig	£60.00	61.85
Partial human hair wig	£158.90	163.80
Full bespoke human hair wig	£232.45	239.45 ¹

Full details of all the charges are available from the DH website:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicinespharmacyandindustry/Prescriptions/NHScosts/index.htm>

Prepayment certificates

May I take this opportunity to remind you that people who have to pay NHS prescription charges and need them regularly or need a lot of prescription items could save money with a Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC). PPC holders pay no further charge at the point of dispensing and there is no limit to the number of items the holder may obtain via the certificate.

¹ Please note, the original "Dear Colleague letter" shows the increased cost of a full bespoke human hair wig as £239.65 – this was incorrect. The correct cost is £239.45. All other costs shown in this document are correct.

A 3-month PPC costs £29.10 from 1 April 2011. This will save people money if they need 4 or more items in 3 months. A 12-month certificate will remain at £104 from 1 April 2011 and will save money if more than 14 items are needed in 12 months. A 12-month PPC is now available by 10 monthly direct debit instalment payments. PPCs can be ordered from <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1127.aspx>, or by phoning 0845 850 0030.

NHS Dental Charges

Course of dental treatment	Current Charge	From 1 April 2011
Band 1	£16.50	£17.00
Band 2	£45.60	£47.00
Band 3	£198	£204.00

Implementation of New Dental Charge Rates

The Dental Services division at the NHS Business Services Authority have been advised separately of the revised dental charge rates applicable from 1 April 2011 for the purposes of processing dental contract payments and charge income declarations for independent dental contractors. PCT Commissioning Directors will wish to ensure that dental contractors themselves are informed of the new charge rates, and that the revised patient charge rates are also applied to any patients liable to pay charges who attend NHS managed primary dental care facilities operated on behalf of PCTs by salaried dentists. The Department will be producing updated versions of the patient information leaflets and patient charge posters to reflect the new charge levels. More information about the production and availability of these documents will be available on the NHS PCC website at www.pcc.nhs.uk/dentalpatientinformation shortly and will be signposted in PCC's e-newsletter, New@PCC (<http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/new-at-pcc>). PCTs should check those sites for details.

Optical voucher values from 1 April 2011

Voucher values continue at the rates effective since 1 April 2009, which are:

Type of optical appliance	Value
A. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	£36.20
B. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	£55.10
C. Glasses with single vision lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptres but not more than 14 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres.	£80.60
D. Glasses with single vision lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; (b) of a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£182.00
E. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of not more than 6 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 2 dioptres.	£62.70
F. Glasses with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 6 dioptres but less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres; (b) of a spherical power of less than 10 dioptres with a cylindrical power of more than 2 dioptres but not more than 6 dioptres.	£79.70
G. Glasses with bifocal lenses of a spherical power of 10 or more dioptres but not more than 14 dioptres with a cylindrical power of not more than 6 dioptres;	£103.30
H. Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses- (a) of a spherical power of more than 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; (b) with a cylindrical power of more than 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£200.10
I (HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs A to H above for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£186.40