

PATIENT INFORMATION

Prescription Charges for NHS Wigs

Information and advice for Dermatology Patients

If you are diagnosed with a condition that requires you to wear a wig, your wig will be prescribed for you by the doctor you see at your appointment in the Dermatology Department at Torbay Hospital.

You can be prescribed 2 NHS wigs per calendar year.

You will need to come back for an appointment for a repeat prescription as each prescription is only valid for 2 years (in certain circumstances this may be extended).

Each patient is permitted a maximum of £120 per wig but if the wig you choose is higher than £120 then you can pay the balance directly to the supplier. The maximum amount per year is therefore £240, the cost of two wigs.

Will I have to pay for my wigs?

There is a charge for NHS wigs and the current charge (from April 2021) is £75.70.

Payments can be made by card by contacting the Cashiers' office (Level 2 Outpatients at Torbay Hospital) on 01803 656555 between 8.45am to 4.45pm.

You will need to inform the cashiers or the Dermatology department of which wig supplier you wish to use.

Some people are exempt from paying wig prescription charges but the criterion for exemption is slightly different to the one for prescription medicine charge exemption. The next section provides further information.

Who is exempt from paying wig prescription charges?

You do not have to pay wig prescription charges if you:

- Are under 16 years old or aged 16 – 18 and in full time education.
- Have a valid war pension exemption certificate and the wig is for your accepted disablement.
- Are named on a valid HC2 NHS low income scheme certificate or HC3 certificate for help with health costs.
- Are included in an award of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance.

- Universal credit (and meet the criteria).
- Are included in an award of pension credit guarantee credit (pension credit on own does not qualify).
- Are included in a tax credit award and have a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate.

If you are unsure if you qualify for exemption please contact the NHS Helpline on 0300 330 1343.

If you are claiming exemption from wig prescription charges you will be asked to provide evidence of this before requesting your wig. You must contact the Dermatology department on 01803 656544 or by email tsdft.wigs@nhs.net before requesting your wig from your supplier.

Further information

For more information about help with health costs including details on who can get free prescriptions and exemption certificates see below:

Help with health costs

Prescription pre-payment, medical and maternity exemption helpline:

Tel: 0300 330 1343

Website: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HelpWithHealthCosts.aspx

Although patients may be exempt from [NHS prescription charges](#), this exemption may not extend to other NHS charges. NHS prescriptions are only one part of NHS health costs and these are made on FP10 prescription forms and dispensed under the pharmaceutical services regulations.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.