

Macmillan Cancer Information Centre – **Newham**  
Ground Floor, St Andrew's Wing, Newham General Hospital  
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Tel: 020 7363 8758

Macmillan Cancer Information Centre – **Whipps Cross**  
Junction 4 on the main hospital corridor, Whipps Cross Hospital  
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Tel: 020 8535 6790

**Macmillan Cancer Support** [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)  
**Nurse support line:** 0808 808 0000 Mon-Fri 8am-8pm  
Provides online and printed information on cancer, their treatments  
and information on support.

**Cancer Research UK** [www.cancerhelp.org.uk](http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk)  
**Nurse support line:** 0808 800 4040

**NHS Business Services Authority** exemption queries  
[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk) Tel: 0300 330 1341

### Large print and other languages

For this leaflet in large print, please ring  
020 3594 2040 or 020 3594 2050.  
For help interpreting this leaflet in other  
languages, please ring 020 7377 7280.

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service

If you need general information or advice about Trust services,  
please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on  
020 3594 2050. For help interpreting this leaflet in other languages,  
please ring 020 7377 7280.

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**Switchboard:** 020 3416 5000  
[www.bartshealth.nhs.uk](http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk)



Patient information

## Free NHS prescriptions for cancer patients



Unless you already receive free prescriptions, all cancer patients in England are eligible for a Medical Exemption Certificate. Cancer patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or its treatment can obtain the application forms from their GP or oncology clinic. This leaflet explains how to apply for the exemption certificate for patients with cancer.

### **How do I apply for an exemption certificate?**

You can apply for an exemption certificate by collecting a 'FP92A' form from your GP surgery or oncology clinic. You will need to fill out parts 1 and 2 and your doctor (GP or oncologist) or authorised member of the team (practice nurse or oncology nurse) can sign to confirm the information is correct. You should then send the form to the following address below or ask your GP surgery to send it in a prepaid envelope. The medical exemption team aim to process all applications for an exemption certificate with a 3-day turnaround.

NHS Help with Health Costs, Medical Exemption, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6SN.

### **What should I do before my certificate arrives?**

Before your exemption certificate arrives, whenever you pay a prescription charge, remember to ask your pharmacist for an FP57 NHS receipt and refund claim form. You will have to send these back to the authority (address above) to reclaim expenses paid.

### **How long will my certificate be valid for?**

The certificate will last for five years or until your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday whichever comes first. Once your certificate has expired, you can apply for a new one. The NHS Business Service Authority will remind you before the expiry date. If you require more treatment related to your cancer after five years you will be eligible to re-apply.

### **What sort of medication does the certificate cover?**

GPs and oncologists should issue an exemption certificate if you need medication to treat:

- **Any diagnosed cancer** (including drugs prescribed after curative treatment e.g. Tamoxifen and hormone replacement therapy)
- **The effects of cancer** (including palliative care and changes to mental health since a cancer diagnosis)
- **The effects of cancer treatment** (including the effects of current treatment or previous treatment. They include the side-effects of chemotherapy drugs and the late effects of radiation)

### **Does the certificate cover other medication?**

Yes, exemption certificates cover all prescriptions, not just those relating to cancer but not NHS wigs, although there may be other ways to receive help with this such as NHS low income schemes and other recipients of tax credits, benefits or allowances.

### **Is there anything else I need to know?**

If you have a medical condition which may entitle you to a Medical Exemption Certificate, you should also inform the Drivers Medical Group of the DVLA (Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency) of your condition, as it may affect your fitness to drive.

### **Resources for information and support**

Vicky Clement-Jones Macmillan Cancer Information Centre  
Ground Floor, West Wing  
St Bartholomew's Hospital  
Mon-Fri 10am to 4.30pm  
Tel: 020 3465 6611