

28 February 2012

Gateway Reference Number: 17297

To:

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

Increase in NHS Prescription Charge

The NHS prescription charge will increase from 1 April 2012 by 25 pence per item to £7.65 (£15.30 per pair of elastic hosiery).

The 3 month and 12 month prescription prepayment certificates prices remain unchanged.

Increases in Charges from 1 April 2012

Item	Current Charges	New charge
Prescription	£7.40	£7.65
3-month PPC	£29.10	£29.10
12-month PPC	£104.00	£104.00
Surgical brassiere	£25.10	£25.70
Abdominal or spinal support	£37.90	£38.80
Stock modacrylic wig	£61.85	£63.35
Partial human hair wig	£163.80	£167.85
Full bespoke human hair wig	£239.45	£245.40

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.

A 3-month PPC remains unchanged at £29.10 from 1 April 2012. 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 2012 and will save money if 14 items or more are needed in 12 months. A 12-month PPC is 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 2012
Band 1	£17.00	£17.50
Band 2	£47.00	£48.00
Band 3	£204.00	£209.00

Implementation of New Dental Charge

The Dental Services division at the NHS Business Services Authority have been advised separately of the revised dental charge rates applicable from 1 April 2012 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.