**Bracondale Medical Centre**

**Private Charges**

**Why do GP’s charge fees? Your questions answered.**

**Isn’t the NHS supposed to be free?**

The National Health Service provides most health care to most people free of charge, but there are exceptions, for example prescription charges, and there are a number of other services for which fees are charged. This is because the service is not covered by the NHS, for example medical reports for insurance companies, claim forms for referral to private care and other letters and forms which require the GP to review the patient’s medical record.

**Surely the GP is being paid anyway?**

GPs are not employed by the NHS. They are self-employed and have to cover their costs – staff, buildings, heating, lighting etc – in the same way as any small business does. The NHS pays the doctor for specific NHS work but for non-NHS work the fee has to cover the GP’s costs.

**What is covered by the NHS and what is not?**

The government’s contract with GP’s covers medical services to NHS patients. In recent years more and more organisations have been involving GPs in a whole range of non-medical work.

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge their NHS patients are;

* Certain travel vaccinations
* Private medical insurance reports
* Holiday cancellation claim forms
* Referral for private care forms
* Letters requested by, or on behalf of, the patient

Examples of non-NHS services for which GPs can charge other institutions are;

* Medical reports for an insurance company
* Some reports from DSS/Benefits agency
* Examinations of local authority employees

**Why does it sometimes take my GP a long time to complete my form?**

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports is done in the Doctors own private time .The Doctors have very heavy workloads and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time. You will need to allow at least 10 working days (2 weeks), more complicated forms can take longer, you can ring us after 10 days to see how the form is progressing

**I only need a GPs signature – what is the problem?**

When a GP signs a certificate or completes a report, it is a condition of remaining on the Medical Register that they only sign what they know to be true. Therefore, in order to complete even the most simplest of forms, the GP needs to check the patient’s entire medical record. Carelessness or inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the GP.

**Charges at Bracondale Medical Centre**

Bracondale Medical Centre has a list of fees displayed at reception and can be found on our website.

Payment is by cash or cheque only at the time of collection.

**[www.bracondalemedical.co.uk](http://www.bracondalemedical.co.uk/" \o "Bracondale Medical's website)**

**Bracondale Medical Centre**

**Fees for Private Medical Services**

**With effect from 1st July 2015**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Private medical letter | £20.00 - £50.00 |
| Private medical claim form (BUPA etc) | £30.00 |
| Private consultation | £30 per 15 mins |
| Child Minder OFSTED form | £85.00 |
| Adoption report / medical | £100.00 |
| Fitness for sports / fitness to attend school report | £40.00 |
| Pre-employment medical | £90.00 |
| Private medical and report | £90.00 |
| Shotgun certificate | £30.00 |
| Lighter Life programme health questionnaire | £25.00 |
| Lasting Power of Attorney | £90.00 |
| Access to health records (dependent upon detail of request) | £10.00 - £50.00 |
| Extract from medical records (dependent upon size of extract) | £30.00 - £90.00 |

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| **DRIVING**  Driving licence application | £25.00 |
| HGV, Taxi, Race Drivers, Pilots form | £85.00 |
| Elderly persons drivers medical / report | £85.00 |
| HGV, Taxi, Race Drivers, Pilots medical and form | £100.00 |

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| **TRAVEL**  Fitness to travel certificate | £25.00 |
| Holiday cancellation Certificate | £30.00 |
| Holiday insurance report | £50.00 |
| Diving medical | £85.00 |

**All payment are to made on collection by Cash or Cheque**