

Fees guidance schedule 11

Where no agreement applies

April 2008



Where no agreement applies

There are certain services to which no national agreement applies and for which the BMA has in the past given guidance to members on what fees to charge.

Following discussions with the competition authorities, within the framework of the law laid down by the Competition Act 1998, the BMA has agreed to discontinue publishing suggested fees for services which can be provided by **any** doctor. This fees guidance schedule provides suggested fees for services that are provided by **the patient's own general practitioner or other attending doctor**.¹ It also draws attention to those other areas where the association formerly provided suggested fees but now makes no suggestion.

These fees are reviewed annually by the BMA Council on the advice of the professional fees committee.

A Suggested fees for services which can only be provided by the patient's own general practitioner or other attending doctor

Effective date: April 2008

Allowances: Mileage at 56.4p per mile

1	Certificates without examination	£
a)	Straightforward certificates of fact	15.00
b)	More complex certificates	25.00 to 53.00

1 Officials of the Office of Fair Trading have confirmed that this classification strikes an acceptable balance between the need to give doctors an incentive to provide efficient, cost-effective services and the need to ensure that they are willing and able to provide full and accurate medical reports when necessary.

- private sick note (incapacity certificate), required by patient for presentation to an employer (except those that the doctor is obliged to provide for statutory sick pay (SSP) purposes)
- accident/sickness insurance certificate – short certificate of incapacity without examination for patient to claim under accident/sickness insurance
- freedom from infection certificate, eg for school, travel or employment
- validation of private medical insurance (PMI) claim form, to support a claim for benefit in connection with private medical insurance, or completion of a ‘pre-treatment’ form
- school fees and holiday insurance certificates
- health club – brief written report to certify that a patient is fit for exercise

2	Work in surgery	£
a)	Extract from records	56.50
b)	Report on a pro forma, no examination (eg 20 minutes)	75.75
c)	Written report without examination, providing a detailed opinion and statement on the condition of the patient (eg 30 minutes)	113.00
d)	Comprehensive clinical examination including report, certificate, or completion of necessary forms (eg 45 minutes)	169.50
	• accident/sickness insurance – to support a claim for payment of benefit under accident/sickness insurance policy	
	• employment – for pre-employment or on an employee, requested by an employer	

Note: The exception is for local authority employees which are covered by *Fees guidance schedule 2* and NHS employees which are covered by *Fees guidance schedule 3*.

- fitness for education – to attend university, college, teacher and nurses training and, for dentists, completion of the form of *Application for first registration of a dentist* issued by the GDC
- pharmaceutical trials – report on suitability of patient to take part as non-patient volunteer
- private medical insurance – report on prospective subscriber to a private medical insurance (PMI) scheme (eg BUPA, PPP, WPA, etc)

B Work that can be undertaken by any doctor, where no suggested fees are made²

1 Reports and examinations

- assessment of mining injury – counter certificate required by branches when a miners' union is considering contesting the decision of an industrial injuries tribunal
- court exemption – from attending as a witness, on medical grounds
- drivers/pilots – full medical examination and completion of forms for vocational drivers licence (large goods vehicles and passenger carrying vehicles, taxi etc)
 - fitness to drive for insurance purposes (elderly driver, racing driver etc)
 - aviation licence (pilots)³

2 The main BMA guidance note *Fees for part-time medical services*, to which this is a supplement, provides advice to members on some of the factors they might find it helpful to consider when setting their own professional rates in the absence of BMA suggested fees.

3 A National Private Pilot's Licence requires the applicant's own GP to countersign a self-declaration of fitness by reference to the individual's past medical history that is held in the medical records. For the majority of other pilot licences, the only doctors that can undertake the regulatory medical examinations are those approved as Aeromedical Examiners by the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

- fitness for sport
- report for patients for self-referral overseas
- seat belt exemption

2 Certificates

- private prescription for private patient, or drugs required for travel abroad (private or NHS patient)
- abortion (confirmatory) certificate – second certificate under the Abortion Act 1967 in cases where the patient is not on the GP's NHS list

3 Vaccination and immunisation for travel abroad

- a fee per course of injections (excluding cost of vaccines) if no remuneration is payable by the PCT or health board

Note:

This is subject to the following conditions under the new 2003 GMS contract:

- travel vaccines that are not provided anywhere under the NHS for public health reasons can be privately provided by practices
- a limited number of travel vaccines are provided on the NHS for public health reasons, and the general practitioners committee has produced a document entitled *Focus on vaccinations and immunisations*, which can be obtained via the BMA website
- some practices will have opted out of providing additional service for vaccinations and immunisations, therefore they cannot provide any vaccine available on the NHS to their patients. They could privately provide vaccines not available on the NHS.

Further information on this area may be sought from the general practitioners committee.

4 Family planning

- for patients not on a GP's list, a fee for prescribing and fitting a contraceptive appliance, and a fee for prescribing and fitting an intra-uterine device

5 Minor surgery

- where the patient is not on an NHS list, a fee for the procedure, excluding the cost of drugs and dressings

6 Diagnostic tests

- for venesection or urine testing not undertaken as part of treatment and not involving disputed paternity, including notifying the result to the patient (but excluding laboratory costs)
- for a saliva test not involving HIV testing (ie nicotine)
- for a cervical smear taken at the request of a patient not on the GP's NHS list, including notifying the result to the patient (excluding processing costs)
- for a simple X-ray, eg chest (inclusive of charges payable to hospital if performed in an NHS X-ray department)
- for a recording of ECG
- per report (opinion) on previous recording of ECG

7 HIV testing, at the request of an insurance company

- medical examination, counselling and taking blood
- counselling and taking blood only
- counselling and saliva test only
- certificate of negative result for travel abroad
- for pathology (including proportion payable to the hospital if NHS facilities used)

8 Attendance at airports

9 Attendance at a patient's request at a police station

10 Professional attendance at private events (including sporting events)

Note: In January 2001 the BMA's board of science launched a pamphlet entitled *Doctors' assistance to sports clubs and sporting events*. Copies can be requested from askBMA.

11 Lectures

- eg for a college of further education

12 Removal of a pacemaker prior to disposal of a body

13 Medico-legal work

- for reports and qualifying work, and attendance in court, by doctors engaged as expert or professional witnesses by solicitors acting in cases **not** covered by the rates issued by the Crown Prosecution Service and the Lord Chancellor's Department (the Procurator Fiscal and the Crown Office in Scotland) (see *Fees guidance schedules 10, 10a and 10b*)

14 Non-medical services

- statements of fact
- signing photocard driving licences
- witnessing passport applications

Notes:

- Fees schedules should be read in conjunction with the BMA membership guidance note *Fees for part-time medical services* and its index.
- Members may obtain additional advice or clarification from askBMA. Please quote your current membership number.
- This fees guidance was prepared by the BMA's professional fees committee secretariat; it was edited and produced by BMA Marketing & Publications.

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