

Help with travel costs for NHS treatment

You can get essential travel costs paid to and from a place where you receive certain types of NHS treatment, if you are:

- getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or the guarantee credit part of Pension Credit. Your partner and children will also be entitled to help. If you are getting Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit, you may be entitled to help, depending on your income
- get a war or service disablement pension and need to go to hospital for treatment for that disability.

If you need someone to travel with you for medical reasons, you can get their travel costs paid as well.

You can claim a refund of your travel costs by filling in form HC5 and giving it to the place you go to for NHS treatment. If you can't afford to pay your travel costs in advance, you can ask for an advance payment.

If you have difficulty in meeting your health costs and do not qualify for any other kind of help, you may be able to get help under the NHS low income scheme. The amount of help you get will depend on the amount of income you have. You might not be entitled to any help at all if you have too much capital. There are two types of certificate: a full help certificate (HC2), and a limited help certificate (HC3), which tells you how much you have to pay.

How to apply for help on the low income scheme

To apply for either a full help certificate (HC2) or a limited help certificate (HC3), complete form HC1, which is available from local benefit offices, NHS hospitals, dentists, opticians and pharmacists. Form HC1 can also be ordered online at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk. You do not have to wait until you need treatment before you apply for a certificate. Send the completed form HC1 to:

NHS Business Services Authority
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Newcastle Upon Tyne
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