

## WMS: National Health Service charges

04.03.11

The Department of Health has published a written ministerial statement on National Health Service charges:

The Minister of State for Health, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): Regulations have been laid before Parliament to increase certain National Health Service charges in England from 1 April 2011.

There will be an increase in the prescription charge of 20 pence from £7.20 to £7.40 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed.

The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will rise to £29.10 for a three month certificate. The cost of the annual certificate will remain at £104. PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months or more than 14 items in one year.

Regulations have also been laid to increase NHS dental charges from 1 April 2011. The dental charge payable for a band one course of treatment will increase by 50p from £16.50 to £17. The dental charge for a band 2 course of treatment will increase by £1.40 from £45.60 to £47. The charge for a band 3 course of treatment will increase by £6 from £198 to £204.

Dental charges represent an important contribution to the overall cost of dental services. The exact amount raised will be dependent upon the level and type of primary dental care services commissioned by primary care trusts and the proportion of charge paying patients who attend dentists and the level of treatment they require.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied by hospitals will be also be increased.

The range of NHS optical vouchers available to children, people on low incomes and individuals with complex sight problems to help with the purchase of glasses remains unchanged in 2011-12.

Details of the revised charges are as follows:

### NHS Charges - England

	New Charge (£)
Prescription charges	
Single item	7.40
3 month PPC	29.10
12 month PPC	104.00
Wigs and Fabric Supports	
Surgical brassiere	25.10
Abdominal or spinal support	37.90
Stock modacrylic wig	61.85
Partial human hair wig	163.80
Full bespoke human hair wig	239.65

Dental Charges	
Band 1 course of treatment	17.00
Band 2 course of treatment	47.00
Band 3 course of treatment	204.00

Optical voucher values from 1 April 2011

Voucher values continue at the rates effective since 1 April 2009, which are:

Type of optical appliance	Value
A Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 2$ dioptres.	£36.20
B Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of $> 6$ dioptres but $< 10$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres; spherical power of $< 10$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $> 2$ dioptres but $\leq 6$ dioptres.	£55.10
C Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of $\geq 10$ dioptres but $\leq 14$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres.	£80.60
D Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of $> 14$ dioptres with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of $> 6$ dioptres with any spherical power.	£182.00
E Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 2$ dioptres.	£62.70
F Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of $> 6$ dioptres but $< 10$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres; spherical power of $< 10$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $> 2$ dioptres but $\leq 6$ dioptres.	£79.70
G Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of $\geq 10$ dioptres but $\leq 14$ dioptres, cylindrical power of $\leq 6$ dioptres.	£103.30

H	Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses: spherical power of > 14 dioptries with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of > 6 dioptries with any spherical power.	£200.10
I	(HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs A to H above for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust.	£186.40