**St Isan Road Surgery**

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**Private Work**

**Important information for patients**

**Why does my doctor charge fees?**

When your doctor is asked to give medical information about you in the form of a report, letter or certificate, the request kick starts a series of processes.

This takes time and is not always straightforward or simple to complete. Some of the information is not available easily and will mean the doctor has to sort and select the right information for the request.

The doctor also must establish who is funding this work and if it is not part of their NHS work, agree a fee for this.

**Surely the work is paid for by the NHS?**

Many patients see their doctor as the embodiment of the NHS and all that it provides – free care at the point of delivery. However not all work doctors are asked to do is paid for by the NHS and many GPs are self-employed.

This means they must cover their time and costs – staff, buildings, heating, lighting, etc. – in the same was as any small business. The NHS only pays for NHS work, any work outside of the NHS must be funded by other means and this is why fees are charged.

**Why does it take so long?**

Your doctor receive large amounts of request and which is often to do with whether your general health allows you to do something e.g. to work, receive benefits, drive, play sport, attend school, own a house, a firearm or it is for insurance, court or other medico-legal reasons.

All requests will vary in complexity, volume and consistency ranging from signing a certificate which can take minutes, to an in-depth report with an examination that can take hours.

**What your doctor is signing**

When your doctor 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.

In order to complete even the simplest of forms, they may have to check your entire record (some of which may not be accessible on a computer or on site).

Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor General Medical Council or even the Police.

**Why does my doctor seem reluctant or say no to this request?**

Your doctor is inundated with work. They have to balance their time with treating the sick, keeping their practice afloat and making sure they are doing all of this safely within their professional duties as a doctor.

With certain exceptions written within their contracts, doctors do not have to carry out non-NHS work. However, many choose to for the benefit of you and other families they treat.

Where a doctor chooses to undertake the work, we advise them to inform and always agree a fee in advance of undertaking work.

Should their volume of work prove to be greater or more complex than expected, the doctor will contact you to discuss how to proceed.

**What can I do to help?**

Do not expect your GP to process forms overnight. Urgent requests may mean that a doctor has to make special arrangements to process the form quickly, and this will cost more.

Don’t book an appointment with your doctor to complete forms without checking with your doctor’s administrative staff as to whether you need to or not.

**Private work fees**

The fees charged are based on the British Medical Association suggested scales and the doctor’s administrative staff will be able to advise you about them.

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| **CERTIFICATION** | **FEES** |
| Private Sick Certificate | £35.00 |
| Letter to verify vaccine/medication for flight | £35.00 |
| Welsh Water Certification or similar | £35.00 |
| Letter for University Students | £45.00 |
| **FITNESS LETTERS** |  |
| Verification letter or form – fitness for travel or to attend/participate in school, gym, weight loss programme, stage or sports event | £60.00 |
| Firearms  | £60.00 |
| **INSURANCE FORMS** |  |
| Holiday cancellation form | £80.00 |
| Private health insurance claim form | £80.00 |
| General Practitioners Report | £200.00 |
| Targeted Report/Additional Information | £100.00 |
| **MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS** |  |
| Private Medical Examination (time based) - Taxi | £200 (min) - £308.00 |
| Non-attendance at booked PME appointment | £140.00 |
| **POWER OF ATTORNEY** |  |
| Certificate Providers Statement (at practice) | £95.00 |
| Certificate Providers Statement (house visit) | £150.00 |
| **ADOPTION** |  |
| Form IHA Initial Assessment | £140.00 |
| Form AH Health Assessment, Prospective Carer | £80.00 |
| Adoption Medical: update AH2 form | £35.00 |
| **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH** |  |
| Copy of Immunisations | £10.00 |
| Copy of Sick Certificate | £10.00 |
| Occupational Health Report | £150 (min) - £200 |
| **INVESTIGATIONS** |  |
| BP check for insurance purposes | £130.00 |
| ECG and report | £130.00 |
| Lab tests  | Lab fee plus admin charge £40 |
| Blood collection for testing elsewhere | £40.00 |
| HIV testing (no test without counselling first) | Lab fee plus Admin charge £40 |
| HIV counselling | £140.00 |
| **OVERSEAS PATIENT** |  |
| Initial consultation | £105.00 |
| Nurse consultation | £65.00 |
| House call | £185.000 |
| Private prescription | £45.00 |