



**University
Hospitals Sussex**
NHS Foundation Trust

Free NHS prescriptions

Department of Diabetes
and Endocrinology

Patient information

How do I know if I am entitled to free NHS prescriptions?

You can find out if you are entitled to free NHS prescriptions using the NHS Check Before You Tick online eligibility checker www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/dont-get-caught-out-penalty-charges/check-you-tick

You are entitled to free NHS prescriptions if you:

- receive certain benefits or have a low income
- are pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months
- are 60 or over
- are under 16, or 16 to 18 and in full-time education.

Can I get a medical exemption certificate?

You are entitled to a medical exemption certificate if you have certain medical conditions.

If you speak to your GP they will give you an application form.

Within diabetes and endocrinology these conditions include:

- **Diabetes mellitus** (unless you are treated by diet only).
- **Hypothyroidism** (underactive thyroid gland).
Usually you will be treated with thyroxine (levothyroxine).
- **Hypoparathyroidism**
Usually you will be treated with calcitriol or alfacalcidol.

- **Hypoadrenalism** (for example, resulting from Addison's disease or pituitary disease).
Usually you will be treated with hydrocortisone or prednisolone.
- **Diabetes insipidus** (AVP deficiency).
Usually you will be treated with DDAVP (desmopressin).
- If you are undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer treatment (including 'late effects').

Are HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) and contraceptive prescriptions free?

- HRT (regardless of why prescribed) is not free, but you can save money by buying an HRT prescription prepayment certificate (PPC). This covers an unlimited number of listed HRT medicines for 12 months (for the cost of two single items).
- Prescribed contraceptives are free for everyone.

How else can I save money on NHS prescriptions?

If you pay for your NHS prescriptions, you could save money by buying a three or 12 month prescription prepayment certificate (PPC). Find out more information on the NHS Business Services Authority Free NHS Prescriptions webpage www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/free-nhs-prescriptions

**This leaflet is intended for patients receiving care
in Brighton & Hove or Haywards Heath**

Ref. number: 2312
Publication date: 12/2023
Review date: 12/2026

© University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust Disclaimer:
The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in
no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified
practitioner.

