Medical exemption certificates

A medical exemption certificate entitles you to free NHS prescriptions.

You're entitled to a medical exemption certificate if you have:

cancer and are undergoing treatment for either:

- cancer
- the effects of cancer
- the effects of cancer treatment

How you can apply

Speak to your GP or doctor. They'll give you an application form.

You'll get a paper certificate in the post within 10 working days of NHS Business Service Authority (NHS BSA) receiving your application.

How long it is valid for

When it starts

NHS BSA will backdate the certificate to start one month before your application was received.

If your certificate covers the date you collect your items, you can get your NHS prescriptions for free.

Mark box ‘E’ on the prescription form and sign the declaration.

You may need to show your certificate as evidence that your exemption is valid. You can still collect your NHS prescription for free if you do not have your certificate with you.

When it expires

Your certificate will normally last for 5 years and then you will need to renew it.

Remember NHS prescriptions are free if you’re aged 60 or over.

For more information visit:
https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check-if-you-have-nhs-exemption/medical-exemption-certificates