# NHS healthcare for migrants with NRPF in England

Short sections taken from <http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Documents/NHS-healthcare.pdf>

The full factsheet summarises the NHS healthcare people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) can access in England and whether they will have to pay for this.

This note looks only at prescription charges.

## Introduction

**Primary healthcare** is delivered through GP practices, NHS walk-in centres, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists.

These services can be accessed by everybody in England, regardless of immigration status and are mostly provided free of charge, although some (such as prescriptions and dental treatment) must be paid for by certain people depending on their age, income or medical condition rather than their immigration status.

The ‘DH guidance’ referred to throughout is the December 2017 version of the Department of Health’s [Guidance on operating the overseas visitors charging regulations](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-visitor-and-migrant-cost-recovery-programme).

NHS treatment is not a [public fund](http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/information/Pages/public-funds.aspx) for immigration purposes, so people who have NRPF are not prevented from accessing NHS services and should not be refused treatment on this basis alone.

### NHS prescriptions and other primary care services

Prescriptions are known as a chargeable primary health service. Some people will need to pay for the following services:

* NHS prescriptions
* NHS dental treatment
* Sight tests, glasses and contact lenses
* Travel to receive NHS treatment
* NHS wigs and fabric supports

People who do not have to pay for most (or all) of these services are those who are:

* Age 60 or over
* Age under 16
* Age 16-18 and in full-time education
* Pregnant, or have had a baby in the previous 12 months, and have a valid maternity exemption certificate
* Holding a medical exemption certificate because they have a certain [medical condition](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption-certificates/medical-exemption-certificates)



**Won’t get free prescriptions**

**May get free prescriptions**

Age 60+

Age under 16

Age 16 to 18 in FTE

Maternity exemption

Medical exemption

“Everyone else”

Plus people not on the list but on low income may get help with prescription costs

NRTPF

People with No Recourse who are receiving social services support will not be eligible for free prescriptions unless they fall into one of the groups listed above.

If the person with no recourse doesn’t fall into one of the groups listed above, but has a low income, they may be entitled to full or partial help through the [NHS Low Income Scheme](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/nhs-low-income-scheme-lis/) by obtaining an HC2 certificate.

For this, an HC1 form must first be completed, which can be requested from [NHS choices](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/nhs-low-income-scheme-lis/) or downloaded [here](https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/HC1-September-2018.pdf) (Sept 2018).

When completing the form, a person with No Recourse who is receiving financial support from social services should not select that they are in receipt of benefits, otherwise the application is likely to be refused. Instead they should provide a letter from social services detailing what support is being provided.

For more details, and to find out exactly what services will be free to each exempt group, see the NHS information [help with health costs](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-help-health-costs).