

Help with travel costs

Cancer Services

Patient information

This information is for patients who need help with the cost of travelling to and from hospital. It is based on the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme guidelines produced by the Department of Health.

Can I get help with travel costs?

If you are a patient on any of the following benefits you may be able to claim back the costs of travelling to and from hospital.

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)

You can claim for public transport fares (not first class) or if you drive, the return mileage and parking expenses. Parking penalties will not be reimbursed.

You may also be able to claim if you have a low income. You will have to fill in an HC1 form 'Claim for Help with Health Costs' which includes giving details of your income and savings. You can collect this form from the hospital cashier.

If you qualify for help, you will be sent an HC2 (full help) or HC3 Certificate (limited help).

What documents do I need to bring with me?

Please bring one of the following documents to the Cashiers Desk on the ground floor in Grosvenor Wing, St George's Hospital:

- proof of a qualifying benefit (like an award notice)

- a tax credit exemption certificate (you'll get this automatically if you qualify)
- a certificate showing you qualify for the NHS low income support scheme
- your hospital appointment card / letter.

You can make a claim up to **3 months after** the date of travel.

If you get Saving Credit **only**, you are **not** entitled to reimbursement under the Hospital Travel Cost Scheme.

If I have an escort, can I claim for their costs?

If an adult or your dependent child has to travel to your treatment with you for medical reasons, you can claim their travel costs too. You will need a letter from your doctor or nurse stating you need an escort.

Can I claim for hospital parking costs?

You can buy a £10 weekly parking permit if you are having chemotherapy or are the next of kin (one per patient) of any inpatient.

You will need to fill out a patient/visitors application form which you can get from the ward. After it has been signed by a member of the ward staff, take the form to security.

Further information

If you would like to find out more, you might find the following websites helpful:

Directgov – the website of the UK government, providing information and online services for the public

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Illoinjured/DG_10018959

NHS Choices

<http://www.nhs.uk/Healthcosts/Pages/Travelcosts.aspx>

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