

## Prescription checking

It's important that you don't claim free NHS prescriptions until you receive your maternity exemption certificate.

Checks are made on free NHS prescriptions and free and reduced cost NHS dental treatment.

If you claim free NHS prescriptions or NHS dental treatment you're not entitled to, or don't hold an exemption certificate for, you could have to pay a penalty charge of up to £100.

When you get your certificate, make sure that your name, address and date of birth is correct and match what is printed on your NHS prescriptions.

You can check that your certificate is valid at **[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption)**

## Help with other health costs

Find out if you can get help with other health costs using the eligibility checker at **[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check)**

It usually takes less than five minutes.

You'll answer a few questions about your circumstances and it will show the help available to you.

For more information about the maternity exemption certificate visit:  
**[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex)**

You can contact us at  
**[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us)**  
or call 0300 330 1341.

Our contact centre is open Monday – Friday  
8am – 6pm and Saturday 9am – 3pm  
(except public holidays).

We offer a telephone translation service if  
English is not your first language.

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NHSBSA Help with Health Costs



**Get free NHS prescriptions  
with a maternity  
exemption certificate**



Scan the QR code or visit  
**[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/matex)**  
to find out more.



## What is a maternity exemption certificate?

A maternity exemption certificate entitles you to free NHS prescriptions.

You can also use this certificate whilst pregnant to prove your entitlement to free NHS dental treatment.

## Who can apply?

You can apply if you are pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months.

## When will the certificate start?

Your certificate will be backdated to start one month before the date we receive the application.

## When will the certificate expire?

Your certificate will last for 12 months from either:

- your due date, or
- the birth of your baby

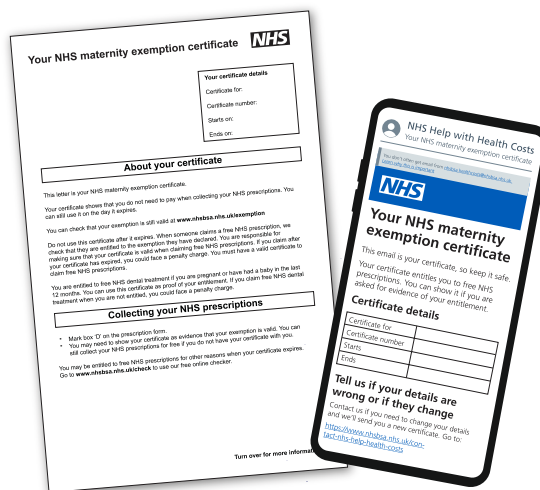
If your baby is born early, you can continue to use your certificate. If your baby is born later than expected, you can contact us to extend your certificate.

## How to apply

Speak to your midwife, health visitor or doctor.

They will help you fill in a paper application or complete a digital application for you.

You'll receive a paper certificate in the post or a digital certificate by email.



## Using your certificate

When collecting your NHS prescriptions for free, show your valid certificate to the pharmacy team.

Tick box 'D' on the prescription and sign the declaration.

If someone else collects your prescription, make sure they know which box to tick.

Do not use your certificate after it expires.

## Refunds

### NHS prescription charges

If you need an NHS prescription before your certificate arrives pay and ask for an NHS receipt and refund form (FP57).

You must get the FP57 at the time you pay the charge, you cannot get one later.

You may claim a refund if your certificate covers the date you paid for your NHS prescription.

The FP57 tells you how to claim.

You need to apply for a refund within three months of paying the prescription charge.

### Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) charge

If you have a valid PPC, you may be entitled to a refund. More information is available in the HC11 booklet at: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc)