

# Prescription charges for NHS wigs

Information and advice for patients

## *The Birmingham Skin Centre*

If you are diagnosed with a condition that requires you to wear a wig, your wig will be prescribed for you by the doctor you see at your appointment in the Birmingham Skin Centre.

You can be prescribed 2 NHS acrylic wigs per calendar year.

You will need to come back for an appointment once a year for a repeat prescription as each prescription is only valid for 12 months.

### **Will I have to pay for my wigs?**

There is a charge for NHS wigs and the cost will depend on the type of wig you are prescribed. At your appointment you will be given a full list of the charges available.

The charge will be sent to you to pay once you have received your wigs.

Some people are exempt from paying wig prescription charges but the criterion for exemption is slightly different to the one for prescription medicine charge exemption. The next section provides further information.

### **Who is exempt from paying wig prescription charges?**

You do not have to pay wig prescription charges if you:

- Are under 16 years old or aged 16 – 18 and in full time education.
- Have a valid war pension exemption certificate and the wig is for your accepted disablement.
- Are named on a valid HC2 NHS low income scheme certificate or HC3 certificate for help with health costs.
- Are included in an award of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance.
- Are included in an award of pension credit guarantee credit (pension credit on its own does not qualify).
- Are included in a tax credit award and have a valid NHS tax credit exemption certificate.

If you are unsure if you qualify for exemption, please ask a member of staff.

If you are claiming exemption from wig prescription charges you will be asked to prove this at the time you receive your prescription. Your wigs will only be ordered for you once this proof is provided.

### **How will my wig be fitted?**

We will give you contact details at your appointment, for Will's Wigs, the wig supplier that we use. You can make arrangements with them to have your wig fitted.

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### Further information

If you have any more questions, please ask during your appointment.

For more information about help with health costs including details on who can get free prescriptions and exemption certificates:

### Help with health costs

Prescription pre-payment, medical and maternity exemption helpline:

**Tel:** 0300 330 1341

**Website:** [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HelpWithHealthCosts.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HelpWithHealthCosts.aspx)

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our websites [www.swbh.nhs.uk](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk) and [www.swbhengage.com](http://www.swbhengage.com), follow us on Twitter @SWBHnhs and like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs](http://www.facebook.com/SWBHnhs).

### Sources used for the information in this leaflet

- Department of Health, form WF1, 'Supply of wigs and fabric supports to NHS outpatients', September 2008
- NHS Business Services Authority, 'Help with health costs', 2008

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5495 or email: [swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net)



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