

# Can you claim free NHS dental treatment?

**Not everyone can claim free NHS dental treatment in England.**

Checks are made on free and reduced cost NHS dental treatment. If you claim when you're not entitled to, you could have to **pay a penalty charge of up to £100.**

Check if you're eligible at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check)



Check before you tick



# What entitles you to free NHS dental treatment?

## Your age and circumstances

You're entitled to free NHS dental treatment if, when the treatment starts, you are:

- under 18
- under 19 and in full-time education
- pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months
- staying in an NHS hospital and your treatment is carried out by the hospital dentist
- an NHS Hospital Dental Service outpatient (however, you may have to pay for your dentures or bridges).

## Certain benefits

Not all benefits entitle you to free NHS dental treatment. Check which type of benefit you get before you claim.



You're **entitled to free NHS dental treatment if**, when the treatment starts, you are named on an award for:

- Income Support
- **income-related** Employment and Support Allowance
- **income-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit **Guarantee Credit**
- Universal Credit - but only if earnings in your last assessment period were **£435** or less, or **£935** or less if you get an element for a child or have limited capability for work
- a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption certificate
- a valid HC2 certificate



You're **not automatically entitled** to free NHS dental treatment if, when the treatment starts, you are named on an award for:

- **contribution-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- **contribution-based** Employment and Support Allowance
- any benefit paid on its own and not listed above (such as State Pension, Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance or Housing Benefit)
- Pension Credit **Savings Credit**, when paid on its own
- Medical conditions

## Proving you're entitled to free dental treatment

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If you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment, you'll be asked to show written proof that you don't have to pay for your treatment. You'll also be asked to sign a form.

Checks are made on free treatment claims. If you claim when you're not entitled, even by mistake, you could face a **penalty charge of £100 plus the cost of your treatment**. That's why it's important you know your entitlement before you visit the dentist.

## Help with dental costs

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If you're not automatically eligible for free NHS dental treatment, you can apply for help through the NHS Low Income Scheme.

If you have applied and have been issued an HC2 certificate you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment.

If you have been issued with a HC3 certificate, you may be able to get help with the cost of your dental treatment.

Find out how to apply at: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hc1](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hc1)

# What are the charges if you need to pay for your dental treatment?

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The cost for your dental treatment depends on what you need to have done to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy. If you're not exempt from charges, you will only ever be asked to pay one charge for each complete course of treatment, even if you need to visit your dentist more than once to finish it. It will either be Band 1, Band 2 or Band 3 Dental treatment charges from 1 April 2024.

## Band 1 course of treatment **£26.80**

This covers an examination, diagnosis (e.g. X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, a scale and polish if needed, and application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealant. Emergency treatment (when you need to see a dentist immediately) also costs £26.80

## Band 2 course of treatment **£73.50**

This covers everything listed in Band 1 above, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or if your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.

## Band 3 course of treatment **£319.10**

This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2 above, plus crowns, dentures and bridges.

# What to do in the dental surgery

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## If you are not entitled to free NHS dental treatment

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If you know you're not entitled to free NHS dental treatment, **don't claim**. The dental team will tell you how much you need to pay.



## Not sure?

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If you're not sure whether you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment (or you're waiting to find out) you should pay the charges and ask for the NHS receipt form FP64, or a receipt that shows the total NHS charge and the date you paid.

If you find out later that you were entitled to free or reduced cost treatment, you can apply for a refund for charges that were part of your NHS treatment. You must make your refund claim within three months of paying. Ask your dentist for a HC5(D) refund form or visit **[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hc5](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hc5)** to order or print the form.

You can also use the NHS eligibility checker to find out if you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment and help with other NHS charges.

Visit **[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check)**



## If you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment

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Make sure you take your proof of entitlement along to your appointment and tick the right box on the dental form.

## For more information

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### Help with dental costs

[www.nhs.uk/healthcosts](http://www.nhs.uk/healthcosts)  
0300 330 1343

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#### **Maternity exemption certificate helpline**

0300 330 1341

#### **NHS Low Income Scheme helpline**

0300 330 1343

#### **NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate helpline**

0300 330 1347

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## Benefits information

[www.gov.uk/dwp](http://www.gov.uk/dwp)

#### **Pension Service helpline**

0800 731 0469

#### **Universal Credit helpline**

Universal Credit full service

0800 328 5644

[www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit)

#### **Jobcentre Plus helpline**

Jobseeker's Allowance, Income  
Support and Employment and  
Support Allowance

0800 169 0310

#### **Tax Credits helpline**

0345 300 3900

The information in this guide was correct as of March 2024.

The latest version is available at [www.nhs.uk/checkbeforeyoutick](http://www.nhs.uk/checkbeforeyoutick)

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