



Willington Surgery Partnership  
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## Willington Surgery Private Fees – May 2019

*Dear Patient,*

Please find below details of the fees we charge for non-NHS services. Whilst we endeavor to deal with your request as soon as possible, the process can take **up to 3 weeks**. Detailed below are some frequently asked questions to explain why we may take a little longer than you might have anticipated.

### ***Why do GPs sometimes charge fees? Surely the doctor is being paid anyway?***

The GPs at Willington Surgery are not employed by the NHS, as is the case with most GPs. They are self-employed and have to cover their costs such as staff, premises, heating, lighting, etc - in the same way as any small business. The NHS covers some of these costs for NHS work, but for non-NHS work, the fees charged by GPs contribute towards their costs.

### ***What is covered by the NHS and what is not?***

The Government's contract with GPs covers medical services to NHS patients, including the provision of ongoing medical treatment. In recent years, however, more and more organisations have been involving doctors in a whole range of non-medical work, often the only reason being that GPs are in a position of trust in the community or because an insurance company or employer wants to ensure that information provided to them is true and accurate.

### ***Do GPs have to do non-NHS work for their patients?***

With certain limited exceptions, for example a GP confirming that one of their patients is not fit for jury service, GPs do not have to carry out non-NHS work on behalf of their patients. Whilst GPs will always attempt to assist their patients with the completion of forms, for example for insurance purposes, they are not required to do such non-NHS work.

### ***Why does it sometimes take my GP a long time to complete my form?***

Time spent completing forms and preparing reports takes the GP away from the medical care of his/her patients. GPs have a very heavy workload and paperwork takes up an increasing amount of their time. Many GPs find they have to take some paperwork home at night and weekends.

### ***I only need the doctor's signature - what is the problem?***

When a doctor signs a certificate or completes a report, it is a condition of remaining on the Medical Register that they only sign what they know to be true. Therefore, in order to complete even the simplest of forms, the doctor might have to check the patient's entire medical record. Carelessness or an inaccurate report can have serious consequences for the doctor with the General Medical Council (the doctors' regulatory body) or even the Police.