

Our 'Care and treatment: your rights and choices' factsheets explain your rights and choices with regard to your epilepsy care and treatment. 'Rights' are in the NHS Constitution and the Handbook to the NHS Constitution, and you are entitled to them by law. Where we say 'you should', you may not have a legal right, but these are recommendations made in the NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guideline on epilepsy.

You are entitled to free prescriptions

You are entitled to free prescriptions for your anti-seizure medication (ASM) and for any other prescriptions you have. This is referred to as 'medical exemption' from paying prescription charges. To apply for a medical exemption certificate, ask your GP or doctor for an application form. This needs to be signed by your GP or hospital doctor. The certificate lasts for five years and will need to be renewed every five years until your 60th birthday, when prescriptions are free anyway.

A medical exemption certificate form is not needed in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as all prescriptions are free in these countries.



For more about medical exemption certificates visit nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/who-can-get-free-prescriptions

For more about the NHS Constitution visit nhs.uk/NHSConstitution

For more about the Handbook to the NHS Constitution visit gov.uk/government/publications/supplements-to-the-nhs-constitution-for-england

For more about the NICE guideline visit nice.org.uk/guidance/ng217

For a printed copy of this information contact our helpline.

Epilepsy Society

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Epilepsy Society Helpline

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