

Financial help



If you have a diagnosis of epilepsy there may be some financial help available.

Free prescriptions

People with epilepsy in England are entitled to free prescriptions for their anti-seizure medication, as well as any other prescribed drugs (but not dental treatment or eye tests). To apply, fill in the form FP92A, available at your doctor's surgery. Your GP must sign your application. You may be asked to show your exemption card when you collect your prescription. In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland all prescriptions are free.

[Visit nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/who-can-get-free-prescriptions](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/prescriptions-and-pharmacies/who-can-get-free-prescriptions)

NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS)

If you are on a low income or benefits, you may be able to claim back some of your costs of travelling to some medical appointments, under the 'Healthcare travel costs scheme' (HTCS). The Low Income Scheme may also cover some dental and eye care costs.

[Call the LIS helpline on 0300 330 1343 or visit nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/)

VAT exemption

The cost of some equipment designed specifically to help people with disabilities does not include VAT. For example, you may not have to pay VAT for a seizure alarm system.

[Visit gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief](https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vat-relief)

Discounted public transport

If you are having seizures, you may be entitled to free or discounted travel. This is usually because you would be refused a driving licence if you applied for one. You will usually need some proof that you are eligible for the discount, depending on where you live and the rules of the discount scheme.

Rail travel

A disabled persons railcard gives you, and a companion, a third off most fares.

[Call 0345 605 0525 or visit disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk](https://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk)

Bus and tube travel

England: A national bus pass is free. Some councils have additional travel discounts.

[Contact your local council or visit gov.uk/apply-for-disabled-bus-pass](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-disabled-bus-pass)

London: A Freedom Pass gives free bus, train, tram, and tube travel in London.

[Call 0300 330 1433 or visit londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/freedom-pass/disabled-persons-freedom-pass/apply](https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/freedom-pass/disabled-persons-freedom-pass/apply)

Some boroughs have a London Taxicard Scheme for reduced cost taxi travel.

[Call 0207 934 9791 or visit londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard](https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard)

Merseyside: A Merseytravel National Travel Pass offers free travel on buses, trains and Mersey Ferries.

[Call 0300 131 2881 or visit merseytravel.gov.uk/tickets-and-pricing/people-with-a-disability/](https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/tickets-and-pricing/people-with-a-disability/)

Scotland: The National Entitlement Card gives you free bus travel throughout Scotland.

[Contact your local authority or visit transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/60plus-or-disabled](https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/60plus-or-disabled)

Here are some of the practical and financial services and support available to people with epilepsy and people who care for them. Whether or not you feel that you have a disability, you may be eligible for support.

Helpline 0300 102 0024
Confidential, information, and emotional support.
Visit [epilepsysociety.org.uk/helpline](https://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/helpline) for opening hours.

Northern Ireland: If you cannot drive due to epilepsy, you can get a Half Fare SmartPass for bus and rail travel.

[Visit nidirect.gov.uk/articles/free-and-concessionary-bus-and-rail-travel](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/free-and-concessionary-bus-and-rail-travel)

Wales: You, and a companion, may be eligible for free or discounted travel throughout Wales with a Disabled Concessionary Bus Pass.

[Visit portal.tfw.wales/en/disabled](https://portal.tfw.wales/en/disabled)

Coach travel

Some coach operators, such as National Express, offer discount fare schemes for people with disabilities.

[Contact companies directly for details.](#)

Access to Work

If you are unable to use public transport because of your epilepsy, or if it is unavailable, you may be able to get financial help towards the cost of your transport to and from work, through the Access to Work scheme. The scheme may also help with the cost of other practical or mental health support at work.

[Call **0800 121 7479** or visit gov.uk/access-to-work](https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

Blue badge scheme

If you find it difficult to get around, you may be able to apply for a blue badge to help you park closer to your destination.

[Visit gov.uk/apply-blue-badge](https://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge)

Vehicle tax exemption

If you receive benefits, you may be eligible for free road tax for a car registered in your name, which someone drives for you, with you as a passenger.

[Visit gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vehicles-and-transport](https://www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/vehicles-and-transport)

Help with finding a job

You can look for a job through your local Jobcentre Plus office, personal contacts, newspapers, websites, and employment agencies. Jobcentre Plus offices have Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) who help you with your job search. They may help with assessments and referral to schemes offering other support.

They may also have information on employers who are positive about employing people with disabilities, who are signed up to the Disability Confident Scheme.

[Visit gov.uk/looking-for-work-if-disabled](https://www.gov.uk/looking-for-work-if-disabled)

[Visit epilepsysociety.org.uk/employment](https://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/employment)

Benefits

You may be entitled to benefits and other financial support. These might include Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Universal Credit, and Attendance Allowance. You will need to meet certain requirements to be able to apply for these benefits.

[Visit gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support](https://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support) or [epilepsysociety.org.uk/benefits](https://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/benefits)

The following organisations can also provide support, information, and advice on benefits:

Turn2us

[Visit turn2us.org.uk](https://www.turn2us.org.uk)

Citizens Advice Bureau

[Call **0800 144 8848 \(England\) or 0800 702 2020 \(Wales\)** or visit citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

GOV.UK

[Visit gov.uk/disability-service-centre](https://www.gov.uk/disability-service-centre)

[Visit gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

Help from social services or the NHS

Help and support is available from your local authority and the NHS.

Health and social care assessment

Depending on how your epilepsy affects you, you may be entitled to a 'health and social care assessment' (also called a 'needs assessment' or 'care needs assessment').

This looks at whether you have any physical or health difficulties, social or housing needs, and what support you may already receive. If the assessment identifies needs which meet the local authority's criteria, then they have a duty to arrange relevant community care services for you.

These services may include meals, home help, adaptations to the home such as a shower or personal alarm, and access to leisure activities. You may need to pay some of the costs.

[Visit nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/help-from-social-services-and-charities/getting-a-needs-assessment/](https://www.nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/help-from-social-services-and-charities/getting-a-needs-assessment/)

Every effort is made to ensure that all information is correct at the time of publishing. Please note that information is intended for a UK audience. This information is not a substitute for advice from your own doctors. Epilepsy Society is not responsible for any actions taken as a result of using this information.

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A 'home assessment' is usually done as part of the health and social care assessment. This may identify the need for adaptations to your home or equipment. If these cost under £1000 each, the council must provide them free of charge. This isn't based on income and it doesn't matter what you earn.

[Visit nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/care-services-equipment-and-care-homes/care-and-support-you-can-get-for-free/](https://www.nhs.uk/social-care-and-support/care-services-equipment-and-care-homes/care-and-support-you-can-get-for-free/)

Disabled facilities grant (DFG)

If the health and social care assessment (see above) identifies that you need to make changes to your home to make it safe and accessible and these cost more than £1000 each, you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

[Visit gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants)

Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs)

Home improvement agencies (HIAs) are not-for-profit organisations run by housing associations, local authorities, and charities. HIAs can offer information, advice, and support to maintain and adapt your home. They can also help find local schemes and grants to help with the cost.

[Visit findmyhia.org.uk/](https://www.findmyhia.org.uk/)

NHS continuing healthcare

If you have complex, long-term health needs, you might qualify for NHS continuing healthcare, which is a social care package funded by the NHS.

[Visit nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/money-work-and-benefits/nhs-continuing-healthcare)

Help and support

We offer information and emotional support through our helpline (details on page 1). Other charities may offer practical or financial support.

[Visit turn2us.org.uk/](https://www.turn2us.org.uk/)



Patient Information Forum

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Help for families

We have information about children and education, and information for parents and young people. We also offer support through our helpline (details on page 1).

[Visit epilepsysociety.org.uk](https://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk)

The following organisations also offer support:

Contact

[Visit contact.org.uk](https://www.visitcontact.org.uk)

Family Fund

[Visit familyfund.org.uk](https://www.visitfamilyfund.org.uk)

Help for students

A Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) helps cover the cost of any practical support you need. It does not depend on your income or that of your household. Unlike student loans, DSAs do not have to be repaid.

[Visit gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](https://www.visitgov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)

Disability Rights UK runs a Disabled Students Helpline.

Call 0330 995 0414 or

[visit disabilityrightsuk.org/disabled-students-helpline](https://www.visitdisabilityrightsuk.org/disabled-students-helpline)

Help for carers

If you are an unpaid carer for someone with a disability, you may be entitled to a 'carer's assessment', from social services, or to apply for Carer's Allowance.

[Visit nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers-or-epilepsysociety.org.uk/carers](https://www.visitnhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers-or-epilepsysociety.org.uk/carers)

For a printed copy of this information contact our helpline.

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