

## You get free prescriptions in England if:

- You are aged 60 or over (proof of age must be shown to the pharmacist)
- You are under 16 (proof of age must be shown to the pharmacist)
- You are under 19 and in full-time education (proof of age and educational status must be shown to the pharmacist)
- You are aged 16 or 17 and being financially maintained (either wholly or partly) by the local authority having left local authority care
- You hold a valid maternity or valid medical exemption certificate FP92. A woman who is pregnant or has had a baby during the last twelve months (including a woman who has had a miscarriage after the 24th week of pregnancy, or whose baby was stillborn) can apply for an exemption certificate on a form (FW8) available from her GP, midwife or health visitor
- You suffer from a specified medical condition (see next paragraph)
- the medication is prescribed to prevent a pandemic disease, for example, pandemic influenza which poses a serious risk to human health
- You hold a valid medical exemption certificate FP92A issued on the grounds that you are undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment
- You receive a war or service disablement pension and need prescriptions for your disability, provided you have obtained an exemption certificate

In England, the specified medical conditions which entitle you to free prescriptions are:

- cancer, including the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment
- a permanent fistula, for example, a colostomy, requiring continuous surgical dressing or requiring an appliance
- epilepsy for which s/he requires continuous anti-convulsive therapy
- diabetes mellitus, except where treatment is by diet alone
- myxoedema
- hypoparathyroidism
- myasthenia gravis
- tuberculosis
- diabetes insipidus and other forms of hypopituitarism
- forms of hypoadrenalism, for example, Addison's disease, for which specific substitution therapy is essential
- a continuing physical disability which means that s/he cannot go out without help from another person and has a valid exemption certificate.

# Universal Credit + Prescriptions



Southwark

April 2019

# Prescriptions when you're claiming Universal Credit

If you're claiming Universal Credit then you don't automatically get free prescriptions. It's important that you don't tick the wrong box because you may end up with a NHS penalty charge.

There is no box marked "Universal Credit" for you to tick on the back of the prescription form.

You get free prescriptions on Universal Credit if:

- You have no dependent children and are unemployed, a carer, too ill to work or a refugee AND you get £435\* per month (£100.38\* per week) or less in the last month or;
- You have dependent children and/or the DWP has assessed you as having Limited Capability for Work AND you get £935\* per month or less in the last month.

\*The figures do not include any help towards your rent or mortgage.

**IF EITHER OF THESE SITUATIONS APPLIES TO YOU THEN TICK BOX  ON THE BACK OF THE PRESCRIPTION FORM.**

We know the box says "gets income-based Jobseekers Allowance" but the NHS has confirmed that this is the right box to tick.

If you don't fall into one of these groups then you may still qualify for help but you have to fill in a form HC1 which you can download from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

If you'd rather not risk a NHS penalty notice and pay for your prescription instead then get a receipt and ask your pharmacist for form FP57 – you won't be able to get one later. You can then apply for a refund.

If in doubt then call the Prescription services helpline **0300 330 1349**. It's free from a mobile or a landline.

You may qualify for free prescriptions if you fall into a certain category of person or have a certain condition – **check the list overleaf.**

If you want advice on anything in this leaflet or relating to other problems then please call us on **0344 499 4134** or email us on **[advice@citizensadviceSouthwark.org.uk](mailto:advice@citizensadviceSouthwark.org.uk)**.

If you want help with claiming Universal Credit for the first time call Citizens Advice on **0800 144 8 444**.