

If you are on a low income you may be eligible for free Hospital car parking

The Hospital Trust offers two schemes which help meet the cost of travel and car parking charges for those patients who are on low income due to disability or other reasons.

A third scheme also offers free parking to the following patients who have to visit the hospital several times a week or month for ongoing treatment.

- Oncology (Cancer)
- Renal Dialysis
- Parents of sick children you have to stay overnight

The information below explains how to access this support.

1. Hospital Concession scheme - free parking

Who is eligible?

- Oncology (cancer) patients having ongoing treatment
- Renal Dialysis patients
- Parents of Sick Children

How do I apply?

Simply contact the Ward or Department which is caring for you and ask for the Sister or Ward Manager who will be able to confirm your eligibility and give you a form to take to the Security Office in the main entrance of the University Hospital. Security will then give you a pass to exit the car park without paying.

2. NHS Hospital Travel Cost Scheme

Who is eligible?

This scheme reimburses travel costs including car parking charges to patients on the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit (in certain cases)
- The Guarantee Credit of Pension Credit

How can I claim?

Remember to keep your travel and parking receipts and your appointment letter - to get a refund you must take these to the General office located on the ground floor of the University Hospital (close to the main entrance), along with proof that you are receiving benefit (for example, your benefit award letter). You can also claim help with travel costs up to 3 months after the date of travel.

3. The NHS low income scheme

Patients who don't automatically qualify for the NHS Hospital Travel cost scheme, but still find it hard to afford travel and parking costs, may be entitled to claim back some, or all, of their travel expenses under the NHS Low Income Scheme. You can claim if you are on a low income and:

- you are in residential care and have capital of £20,000 or less
- you are over 60 and have capital of £12,000 or less
- you don't fall into either of the above categories but have capital
- of £8,000 or less.

(Capital is any money you may hold in savings and investments, but doesn't include your home.)

How can I claim?

You can read more about the NHS Low Income Scheme in a leaflet called HC11. To apply for help under the scheme you need to complete form HC1 available from the hospital, local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security office, or by calling 08701 555 455 or visiting www.ppa.org.uk. If you are eligible the Department of Health will then send you a certificate setting out your entitlement. When you come for your appointment, keep your car parking receipt and take it along with your certificate to the General Office on the ground floor of the University Hospital and you will be reimbursed accordingly.

Help for visitors

If your doctor considers it medically necessary that someone goes with you to your hospital appointment, you can claim back their travel expenses under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme. To apply contact your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security office, or visit www.dwp.gov.uk.

**For any further information please contact:
General Office on 02476 96 6040**