

**For further information or advice:-**

**The Fountain Centre** (Royal Surrey County Hospital)  
Supportive therapy and information in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Tel: 01483 406618/19  
[www.fountaincentre.org.uk](http://www.fountaincentre.org.uk)

**The Olive Tree Cancer Support Centre** (Crawley Hospital)  
Drop-in centre, counselling, complementary therapies, information and support for cancer patients, their carers and families.

Tel: 01293 534465  
[www.olivetrecancersupport.org.uk](http://www.olivetrecancersupport.org.uk)

**The Patric Centre** (Frimley Park Hospital)  
Information for patients, relatives and carers.

Tel: 01276 526706  
[www.frimleypark.nhs.uk](http://www.frimleypark.nhs.uk)

**Macmillan Cancer Support**  
If you have any questions about cancer, need support or just want someone to talk to, ask Macmillan.  
Tel: 0808 808 0000  
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

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Review date: April 2011  
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Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire   
Cancer Network

## Exemption from Prescription Charges For Cancer Patients

## A Patient Information Leaflet

## Exemption from Prescription Charges

Since 1 April, 2009 cancer patients in England have been eligible for free prescriptions. All patients undergoing treatment for cancer, including the effects of cancer or the effects of current or previous cancer treatment can now apply for an exemption certificate.

### What is an exemption certificate?

An exemption certificate means that you do not have to pay the charges for any NHS prescriptions. However, all patients aged 60 or over are already exempt from NHS prescription charges and need not apply for a medical exemption certificate.

### What does the Exemption Certificate cover?

The certificate will give exemption from NHS prescription charges for cancer patients in respect of all prescription items, not just those for cancer, which are dispensed on or after 1 April 2009.

The new medical exemption is not intended for patients who have been treated and are now apparently clear of cancer where no further treatment is planned. In these cases, treatment does not include routine follow ups with planned discharge at a later date.

### How long does the certificate last?

The exemption certificates for cancer patients will last for a period of 5 years and can be used until their end date even if the patient's cancer treatment finishes during that period.

At the end of that period a new application may be made if the patient is undergoing treatment for:-

- Cancer
- The effects of cancer
- The effects of cancer treatment

**Undergoing** – means continuing treatment not just one episode of treatment, e.g. nitrogen freezing of a skin lesion with no further treatment planned.

**Cancer** – means diagnosed cancer (any cancer), and not suspected cancer where no biopsy or diagnostic test has been carried out.

**The effects of cancer** – includes palliative care if treatment for cancer itself has stopped, e.g. pain relief. It also includes effects directly related to cancer that did not exist before the diagnosis.

**The effects of treatment for cancer** – may be in respect of current treatment or previous treatment and may occur some time after the treatment period. They include all the side effects of chemotherapy and the late effects of radiotherapy.

### How do I apply?

Application for an exemption certificate should only be made once a diagnosis of cancer has been made using form FP92A. The form can be provided by your GP, hospital doctor (Consultant) or service doctor and must be countersigned by them. These forms are also available from St Luke's Pharmacy at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Patients who are waiting to receive their exemption certificate will be able to get a refund for any prescription charges for items dispensed after 1 April 2009. To obtain a refund a receipt form FP57 should be obtained from the pharmacy at the time of payment.

### How do I use the Exemption Certificate?

You should carry the exemption certificate with you and show it to the Pharmacy when collecting any prescriptions. If you are unsure whether or not you qualify for exemption please ask your GP or hospital doctor.