



# Claiming free treatment?

It's your responsibility to check whether you're entitled before you declare that you don't have to pay. If you claim free NHS dental treatment that you're not entitled to, you could be facing a **penalty charge of up to £100** – as well as the original treatment charge. An additional charge of up to £50 may apply if you don't pay within the required timescale.

## Who's entitled?

The NHS will cover the cost of your dental treatment if you:

✓	are under 18 years old*
✓	are aged 18 and in full-time education
✓	are pregnant, or have had a baby in the 12 months before your treatment started
✓	are included in an award for Income Support, <b>income-related</b> Employment and Support Allowance or <b>income-based</b> Jobseeker's Allowance
✓	are included in an award for Universal Credit, and your net earnings for the <b>most recent assessment period</b> must also be £435 or less (or £935 or less if your Universal Credit includes an element for a child or you have limited capability for work)
✓	are included in an award for Pension Credit ( <b>Guarantee Credit</b> )
✓	are entitled to, or named on a <b>valid</b> NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate (to be entitled to an NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate, you must be included in an award of child tax credit, or working tax credit with a disability element (or both), <b>and</b> the annual family income used to calculate your tax credit award was £15,276 or less)
✓	are named on a <b>valid</b> HC2 certificate for full help with health costs (HC2W in Wales). If you're named on a valid HC3 or HC3W certificate for partial help, you may be entitled to some help towards the cost of your treatment.

\*In Wales, you're entitled to a free dental examination if you're under 25 or 60 or over.

**Not all benefits entitle you to free treatment.** You'll have to pay for your treatment even if you're included in an award of:

✗	contributions-based Jobseeker's Allowance paid on its own
✗	contributions-based Employment and Support Allowance paid on its own
✗	Pension Credit (Savings Credit) paid on its own
✗	any other benefit paid on its own and not listed in the table overleaf (such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Incapacity Benefit etc.)

## NHS Low Income Scheme

If you currently have to pay but have a low income, you may be entitled to help with the cost of dental treatment and other NHS charges through the NHS Low Income Scheme. Find out how to apply at: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts)

If your application is successful, you may be entitled to a refund of recent charges. Make sure you keep your receipts.

## Still not sure?

If you're not sure that you're entitled to free NHS dental treatment or you're waiting to find out, you should complete and sign the dental claim form as a paying patient, pay for your treatment and ask for a receipt. You may be able to claim a refund.

## More information

If you have any questions about the information in this guide, our online knowledge base has the answer: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/AskUs](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/AskUs)



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Disclaimer: the information in this guide was correct as of July 2017. You can find the latest version at: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts)