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Fee finder



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Fees for copies of health records of living patients

Health records held on computer	up to a maximum of £10
Health records held in part on computer and in part manually	up to a maximum of £50
Health records held manually	up to a maximum of £50

Fees to allow patients access to their own health records where no copy is required

Health records held totally on computer	up to a maximum of £10
Health records held in part on computer and in part manually	a maximum of £10
Health records held manually	up to a maximum of £10 unless the records have been added to in the last 40 days in which case viewing should be free

Fee finder

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Confidentiality and health records

As a doctor, increasingly complex dilemmas can arise from your duty to protect patient confidentiality.

[Access our confidentiality toolkit and guidance](#)

Get tailored financial advice

BMA members are eligible to receive financial advice for doctors from our dedicated team of independent specialist advisers.

Free initial consultation

[Find out more](#)

Call BMA services
0845 609 2008

Access and copying fees for medical records

Exemptions for police authorities

Where a proposed disclosure is for the purposes of the prevention or detection of crime, or apprehension or prosecution of an offender, and when failure to disclose would be likely to prejudice these objectives in a particular case, then the fee provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 do not apply.

The police representatives contacting the data controller or GP have the responsibility of demonstrating the necessary statutory exemption from the fee regime.

Therefore the police representative must state that the police authority require

Revalidation	the information for the purposes of investigating a crime and have statutory exemption from the fee provisions under the Crime and Disorder Act .
Immigration	Read our Confidentiality and disclosure of health information toolkit
Doctors' well-being	Solicitor requests for access to patient records
Pensions	The BMA and Law Society have produced a joint consent form for use in England and Wales and Scotland.
Redundancy	Download the solicitor consent form
Whistleblowing	When an individual makes a legal claim, solicitors or agents often need to see the individual's health records in order to assess which parts are relevant to the case. In addition, if the legal claim goes ahead, the person who the claim is against and relevant insurance companies may ask for copies of the health records.
Working parents	

By signing the consent form, the patient gives the doctor permission to give copies of their full GP record, and or hospital records relating to the incident, to their solicitor or agent.

Health records are released under the [Data Protection Act 1998](#) and the doctor must release copies of the records unless any of the exemptions set out in The Data Protection (Subject Access Modification) (Health) Order 2000 apply.

The doctor may charge the usual fees authorised under the Act for providing the records.

Please note that doctors who receive requests with a different consent form are still obliged to comply, provided the consent is valid. Doctors can, however, ask solicitors to use the joint BMA and Law Society consent form in future, but they cannot insist upon it.

Solicitors photocopying in a GP surgery

Some practices invite solicitors to come into the surgery to make the copies. This is allowed where it is considered convenient for both parties and no ethical or legal difficulties arise, provided that the other conditions in the Data Protection Act are met.

In particular, doctors allowing solicitors to make copies of records must ensure that the records they are copying do not reveal any information that is exempt from the access provisions of the legislation.

Deceased patient records

There are only a small number of people who are able to request access to deceased patients' records.

[Read our Confidentiality and disclosure of health information toolkit](#)

What you can and cannot charge

- For access to the information where records were made **more than 40 days before** the date of the application for access, **a maximum of £10** can be charged.

Member with a query?

BMA advisers are here to help you

Call 0300 123 1233

[Email a BMA adviser](#)

Phone lines open:
08:30 to 18:00
Monday to Friday
(excluding UK bank holidays)

Web chat with a BMA adviser

Same exceptional service - new way to get in touch

[Start chatting](#)

Patient and public information

Not a member but need some help?

Contact BMA Public Information on 020 7387 4499 or by [email](#)

- For providing access to information if the records have been amended or added to in the last 40 days, no fee may be charged.
- For supplying copy, a fee not exceeding the cost of making the copy and postal costs may be charged. Charges should be reasonable and justifiable. Health professionals may charge a professional fee to cover the costs of giving access to the records of deceased patients that is not covered by legislation.

Requests for hard copies of information

If an applicant wishes to obtain a copy of the record, they may be charged a fee. There is no limit on this charge, but **it should not result in a profit** for the record holder. This fee is over and above the £10 for the initial access.

Where health information is to be disclosed for the deceased in the absence of a statutory basis, any fees charged should be reasonable and proportionate to cover the cost of satisfying a request. It is recommended NHS organisations follow the above fees structure.



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