



MESOTHELIOMA UK

Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer

Applying for a Blue Badge Exemption from Prescription Charges

November 2019

Blue Badge

If you have mesothelioma you will be eligible to apply for a Blue Badge which enables you to park closer to your destination.

The scheme operates throughout the UK and is administered by your local authority. You can find the telephone number in the phone book or at www.gov.uk (enter "find your local council" in the search box – this covers England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

When you contact your local authority by telephone ask for the department dealing with Blue Badges. It is usually possible to start the application on the telephone or via the local authority's website.

The Blue Badge is a two-sided card with space for a photograph of the badge holder on the back. There is usually a small fee for the issuing of the Blue Badge. However, in some local authorities, there is a fast track system in place for patients diagnosed with a terminal illness which will speed up the process and means that the photograph is not required and the fee is not charged. Ask your specialist nurse if the fast track system is available for you. Your specialist nurse may need to write a supporting report to enable your application to be fast tracked.

Exemption from Prescription Charges

NHS prescriptions are normally charged at a specific fee for each item.

However, from April 2009, prescription charges for cancer patients were abolished.

Patients being treated for cancer, including the effects of cancer and the effects of cancer treatment, can apply for a medical exemption certificate. Your GP will be able to provide the appropriate application form. This will need to be countersigned by your GP or hospital doctor. If you have to pay for any prescription before the certificate arrives you may be able to claim a refund. Ask your pharmacist for details.

Further help

For help to check benefit entitlement, assistance with form filling or to discuss any problems with benefit/compensation applications please contact the Mesothelioma UK National Welfare Benefits Adviser on **0800 169 2409** or email **info@mesothelioma.uk.com** Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office.