

Healthcare in the UK

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE





- Publicly-funded healthcare system
- Residence-based system (unlike many other countries, which have insurance-based healthcare systems)
- Most services are free at the point of use for all persons 'ordinarily resident' in the UK

Eligibility for free NHS care

The following categories of people are also entitled to free healthcare under the NHS:

- Students from the EEA and Switzerland with a valid EHIC
- Non-EEA students on a Tier 4 visa (who will have paid the immigration health surcharge)
- Those covered by reciprocal healthcare agreements (limited scope; please check)

For those eligible to free NHS care, what services are actually free?

- Consulting a GP (General Practitioner)
- Referral to see a specialist
- Family Planning, including the contraceptive pill
- Walk-in centres
- Hospital treatment (emergency and non-emergency)
- Calling an ambulance (999)
- Calling NHS 111 (for urgent medical concerns)

What you will have to pay for:

- Prescriptions (currently £8.80 per item)
(Prescription Prepayment Certificates [PPC] may be cheaper for long-term meds)
- Some services, e.g. travel vaccinations
- Dental treatment
- Eye tests



Prescription charge exemption:

- If you are pregnant or have had a baby in the previous 12 months and have a valid maternity exemption certificate (MatEx)
- Certain medical conditions (e.g. epilepsy, diabetes) – need to hold a valid medical exemption certificate (MedEx)
- Ask your GP if you can apply for medical exemption on these grounds

- GPs are the first point of contact for nearly all NHS patients
- You need a referral from your GP for specialist services / clinics
- Register now while you have time - don't wait until you get sick!
- Most GP surgeries are closed at the weekend
- Registering with a GP will give you access to primary care out-of-hours (e.g. an on-call doctor)
- GP appointments last 10 minutes on average

Make sure you register with a GP as soon as possible

Gower Street Medical Practice

20 Gower Street, WC1E 6DP

- **By Friday 28th September** – will accept registration from LSHTM students who live in one of the postcodes below

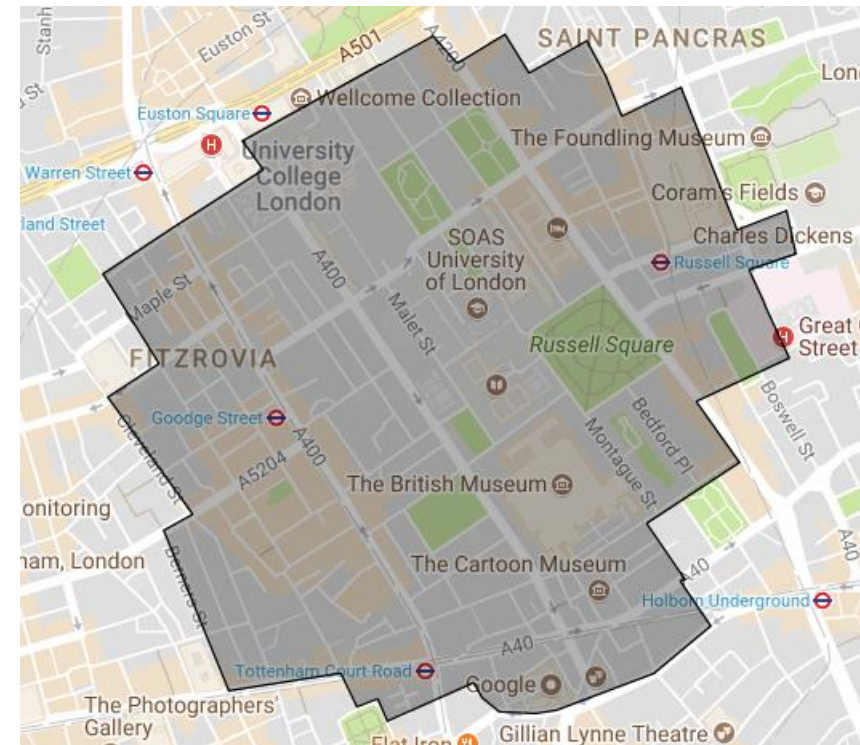
EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4
N1, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11*, N13, N15, N16, N17, N19, N22
NW1, NW3, NW5, NW6*, NW8
SW1, SW3, SW5, SW6*, SW7, SW10*
W1, W2, W8, W9, W10*, W11*, W14*
WC1, WC2
* certain streets do not qualify, ask at the Practice



After Friday 28th September

From October, you will only be able to register as a patient at 20 Gower Street if you live within their local catchment area – about 500 metres of the practice (very roughly the area in between the following tube stations):

- Euston Square
- Russell Square
- Goodge Street
- Tottenham Court Road

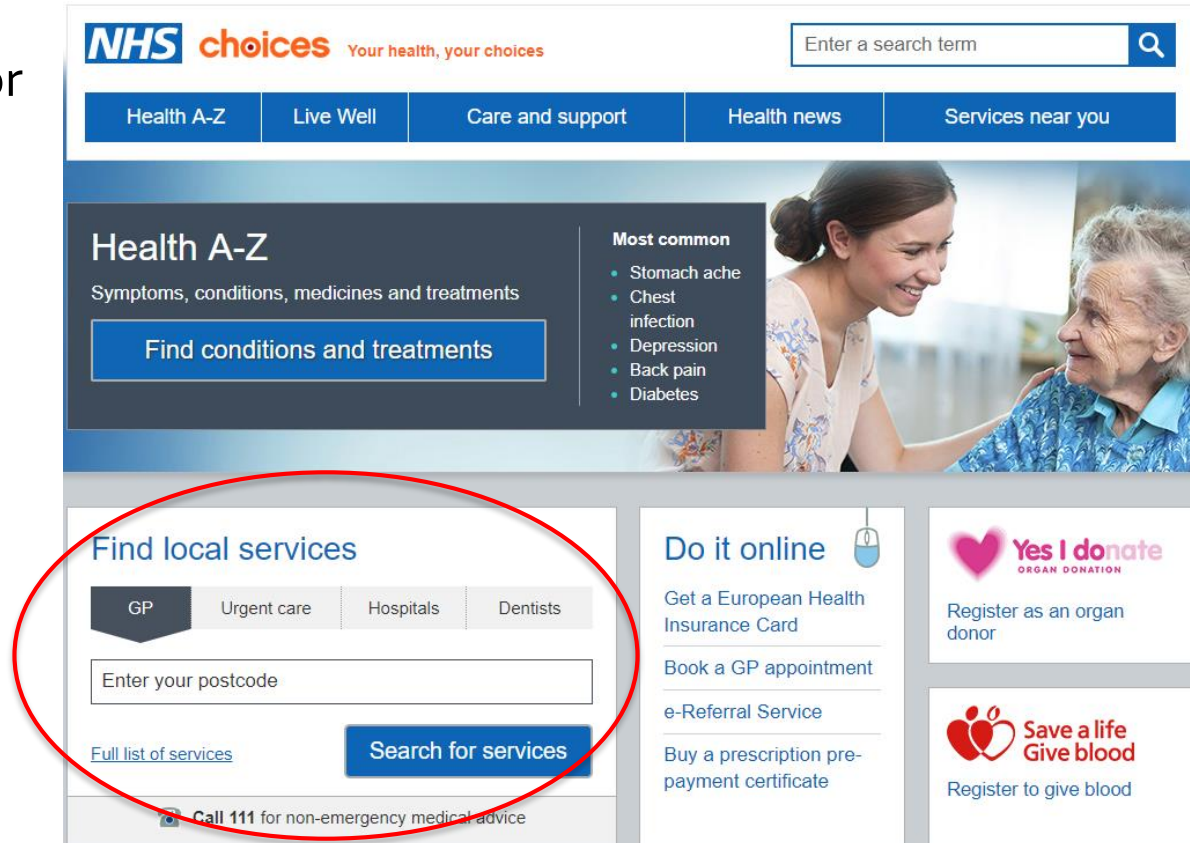


How to register at 20 Gower Street Practice:

- Complete **GMS1 form** plus **new patient health check form** (available from their website: <https://www.gowerstreetpractice.org.uk/>)
- Take it to the practice with your
 - **Passport**
 - **Student ID card** (or LSHTM offer letter)
- Opening hours are Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00
- Do this by Friday 28th September!

If you want to register with a different practice

- Visit www.nhs.uk
- Allows you to search for GP practices by postcode
- NHS website also has information about other services near you such as A&E departments, dentists, walk-in centres, etc.



The screenshot shows the NHS Choices website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Enter a search term" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are navigation tabs: "Health A-Z", "Live Well", "Care and support", "Health news", and "Services near you". The main content area features a "Health A-Z" section with a sub-header "Symptoms, conditions, medicines and treatments" and a prominent blue button labeled "Find conditions and treatments". To the right of this section is a "Most common" list containing: Stomach ache, Chest infection, Depression, Back pain, and Diabetes. Below the "Health A-Z" section is a "Find local services" section, which is circled in red. This section includes a dropdown menu with "GP" selected, and other options: "Urgent care", "Hospitals", and "Dentists". Below the dropdown is a text input field labeled "Enter your postcode" and a blue button labeled "Search for services". A link for "Full list of services" is also present. To the right of the "Find local services" section are two columns of service links: "Do it online" with links for "Get a European Health Insurance Card", "Book a GP appointment", "e-Referral Service", and "Buy a prescription pre-payment certificate"; and "Yes I donate ORGAN DONATION" with a link to "Register as an organ donor". At the bottom right, there is a "Save a life Give blood" section with a link to "Register to give blood". At the very bottom of the page, there is a footer that says "Call 111 for non-emergency medical advice".

What you will need to register:

- Passport (or national ID card)
 - Evidence of student status
 - Proof of your UK address
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- Check with the practice you plan to register with as requirements vary
 - Registration is with the practice, not an individual GP

Walk-in Centres / Urgent Treatment Centres

- If you need urgent medical attention but it's not a life-threatening situation
- Quick access to health advice, emergency contraception and minor injuries such as cuts, sprains and small fractures
- The NHS offers a mix of walk-in centres, urgent care centres, minor injury units and urgent treatment centres, all with different levels of service
- Visit NHS website and search for 'urgent care' services near you
- GP-led and open for at least 12 hours a day every day of the week (including bank holidays)



- Can offer basic advice (on minor health concerns, such as coughs, colds, aches and pains, as well as healthy eating and stopping smoking)
- Sell non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication
- Offer emergency contraception
- Main UK pharmacies: Boots, Superdrug, Lloyds
- Other independent pharmacies on “High Street”
- Pharmacies in some big supermarkets



- Students with long term health conditions are advised to provide a copy of their relevant medical records, including prescriptions for medication, to their GPs in the UK to facilitate the provision of ongoing medical care
- **However,** treatment protocols can be different in the UK and some medicines are not routinely available in the UK (even on prescription)

- Need to pay (unless pregnant or had a baby in previous 12 months)
- NHS dental care is cheaper than private dentists
- Check prices before you agree to a course of treatment



- **Band 1 course of treatment – £21.60**

This covers examinations, diagnosis (including X-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, scale and polish if clinically necessary, preventative care, and emergency care, such as pain relief or a temporary filling, in a primary care dental practice.

- **Band 2 course of treatment – £59.10**

This covers everything listed in Band 1, plus any further treatment, such as fillings, root canal work, or if your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.

- **Band 3 course of treatment – £256.50**

This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2 above, plus crowns, dentures, bridges, and other laboratory work.

- Check www.nhs.uk for details of dentists accepting NHS patients
- Make sure you are registering as an NHS (not private) patient (dental practices see both types of patient)
- Registration does not depend on your address
- Some hospital A&E departments offer emergency dental services – see www.nhs.uk



Questions?

- studentadvice@lshtm.ac.uk

For general questions about accessing NHS healthcare

- studentcounselling@lshtm.ac.uk

For questions about mental health and accessing counselling