

Private Requests and Services

Fitness to Fly Certification

For Use In:	Jessop Medical Practice
For Use By:	All Staff Groups & Patients
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Contents

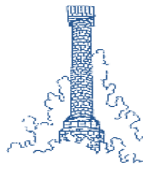
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1. Introduction

General practice services provided under the NHS are funded to deliver essential medical care and treatment to registered patients. However, there are occasions when patients, third parties, employers, insurers, solicitors, or other organisations request services, reports, forms, letters, certificates, or medical examinations fall outside the scope of NHS-funded services. These are known as private (non-NHS) services and may attract a fee.

This policy outlines the approach taken by Jessop Medical Practice in relation to private requests and services. It aims to ensure that requests are managed fairly, consistently, transparently, and in accordance with relevant NHS guidance, General Medical Council (GMC) standards, and contractual obligations. The policy also provides clarity for patients and staff regarding which services are covered by the NHS and which services are considered private work.

The Practice recognises that patients may require documentation or medical information for a variety of purposes, including insurance applications, employment matters, fitness assessments, legal proceedings, education, travel, housing, adoption and fostering processes, and other non-clinical requirements. Whilst the Practice will endeavour to assist where appropriate, GPs and other clinicians are not contractually obliged to undertake private work



and reserve the right to decline requests where they are unable to provide the information requested or where the request falls outside their professional responsibilities.

Where private work is undertaken, charges will apply in accordance with the Practice's approved schedule of fees. Fees reflect the time, expertise, administration, and professional responsibility involved in completing the work. Payment may be required in advance, and timescales for completion will depend on clinical priorities and workload.

2. Fitness to Fly Certification

This policy outlines the approach of Jessop Medical Practice to requests for:

- Fitness to fly certificates
- Airline medical letters
- Pregnancy travel letters
- Oxygen-on-board requests
- Post-surgery travel letters
- Cruise travel medical forms
- Travel provider medical clearance documentation

Practice Position

Jessop Medical Practice does not routinely provide or certify "fit to fly" certificates. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) advises that airlines are responsible for determining whether a passenger is fit to travel. Most airlines have access to medical advisers who assess individual circumstances and make decisions regarding travel suitability. The final decision on whether a passenger may travel rests with the airline or travel provider. Where medical clearance is required, patients should be directed to the relevant travel provider's own medical assessment process and documentation.

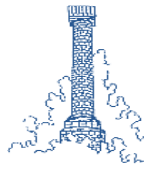
The practice cannot guarantee that any letter or certificate issued will satisfy the requirements of an airline, insurer, or travel provider.

Existing Medical Information

Patients may already have access to relevant information within their medical record that can be used as factual evidence of their health status, including:

- Current and past medical conditions
- Medication lists
- Hospital discharge summaries
- Outpatient correspondence
- Investigation results
- Recent consultation records
- Specialist reports and recommendations

Patients may obtain access to this information through the appropriate medical records access process.



Requests for Additional Information

Where an airline, insurer, or travel provider requires specific medical information, they should provide their own form or written request detailing the information required.

The practice may, at its discretion, provide a factual medical report based on information contained within the patient's medical record. Such requests:

- Are considered non-NHS work.
- May attract a private fee in accordance with the practice's Private Fees and Services Policy.
- Will be completed subject to clinical capacity and workload.
- Will not include guarantees regarding fitness to travel.

The practice reserves the right to decline requests where it is not appropriate to provide the information requested.

3. Reference Documents and Resources

- UK Civil Aviation Authority
<https://www.caa.co.uk/air-passengers/about-your-trip/health-and-medical/guidance-for-health-professionals/assessing-fitness-to-fly/>
- BMA Medico-legal aspect of providing certificates
<https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/fees/medico-legal-fees/medico-legal-aspects-of-providing-certificates>