

## Overseas Visitors information

**The Trust has a legal obligation under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 to identify patients who are required to pay for NHS hospital services. Not everyone is entitled to free NHS hospital treatment.**

### Who is entitled to free NHS treatment?

If you are ordinarily resident in the UK, you are entitled to free NHS hospital treatment in England. Nationals of countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) must have indefinite leave to remain in the UK in order to be ordinarily resident here.

You would become chargeable once admitted to the emergency department (ED) ward, acute ward or if you have attended an outpatient appointment e.g. referred from ED to fracture clinic. **Ordinarily resident means someone who is living lawfully in the UK and is settled in their day to day life for the time being and has an identifiable purpose (reason) for living here**

A person is **not** ordinarily resident in the UK simply because he/she:

- Has British nationality or holds a British passport
- Is registered with a GP
- Has an NHS number
- Owns property in the UK

If a person is found to **not be ordinarily resident**, circumstances of the individual will require investigation to determine if any of the exemptions in the above regulations applies. Please speak to the Overseas Visitor Manager for more details (see below).

### Patients ordinarily resident in European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland

If you are resident and travelling to the UK from a country listed below you should carry a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Upon arrival, the EHIC should be presented; this enables us to recoup the cost of the treatment from your country and exempts you from any charges. You can apply for a provisional certificate if you do not have a card, you would do this in your country of residence

If you are a UK State Pensioner living in one of these countries and you have registered an S1 for residence there, you will be entitled to all types of NHS hospital treatment without charges.

#### EEA member states



Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus (Southern), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland by special arrangement.

## Patients ordinarily resident in Reciprocal/Bilateral agreement countries

If you are resident and travelling from the one of the countries listed below you will be asked to show evidence of your nationality / residence in your country, (example your passport/ID card) **as this will exempt you from charges for treatment you were not expecting to receive during your visit which is immediately necessary or urgent:**

Anguilla, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Jersey, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Montserrat, New Zealand, Serbia, St Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Patients ordinarily resident in the rest of the world countries where you require a VISA to enter the UK

When making a visa application, Non EEA nationals who want to come to the UK for 6 months or more, have to pay the **immigration healthcare surcharge (IHS)**. Patients who paid the IHS and have a valid visa will be entitled to free NHS care for the length of the visa (excluding Fertility which is chargeable)

For those visas issued for a period of 6 months or less, or with a maximum stay at any one time of 180 days or less - you will need to pay for all the NHS hospital treatment you receive.

## Rest of the World countries where you self-funded or hold insurance

If you are without an EHIC or exempt visa you would need to **self-pay** or have **medical insurance**. Examples of countries would be if you are resident and travelling from USA/Canada/Far East (all countries not in the EEA or not covered by reciprocal / bilateral agreement)

## Sources of information

Overseas NHS visitors: implementing the charging regulations - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-nhs-visitors-implementing-the-charging-regulations](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-nhs-visitors-implementing-the-charging-regulations)

### Mrs Vicki Horton, Overseas Visitor Manager

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## Important information

This patient information is not a full description of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2017. See sources of information for where to obtain more details

## Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: [esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net)

## Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department. Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 770365

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask the Overseas Visitor Manager.

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## Reference

The following have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Saba Sadiq, Deputy Director of Finance, Daniel Stephens, Head of Income and Contracting

Next review date: March 2022

Responsible clinician/author: Vicki Horton, Overseas Visitor Manager

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