

## Need more information?

Please visit NHS Choices for more information on how to access NHS healthcare services.

[www.nhs.uk/visitingengland](http://www.nhs.uk/visitingengland)

Guidance on implementing the overseas visitors charging regulations 2015 can be found by visiting the website below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-overseas-visitors-hospital-charging-regulations>

## Non – EEA Countries

\* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Ascension Island, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Island, Chile, China, Columbia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, St Helena, St Lucia, Sudan, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## Healthcare Information for Students, Family members of Students and Visitors from Non – European Economic Area (Non-EEA)



This leaflet provides information for all residents of Non- EEA countries\* who may wish to use the National Health Service (NHS) whilst in England.

### **NHS Healthcare is not free for everyone.**

If you are studying or residing in the UK for longer than 6 months, you will need to pay a health surcharge, which will cover you for any NHS healthcare you receive.

If you are studying for 6 months or less or you have family members or friends, who visit in the UK for less than 6 months and have not paid the health surcharge you will need to purchase health insurance before they travel to the UK.

## Health Surcharge – Free NHS Treatment

The NHS provides free hospital treatment to people who are 'Ordinarily resident' in the UK. This means people living lawfully in the UK, voluntarily and for settled purposes as part of the regular order of their life. People who do not normally live in this country are not automatically entitled to use the NHS for free.

If you are resident in a Non- EEA member state and are studying in England you can access free NHS treatment that is medically necessary during your stay by paying a health surcharge. The health surcharge will be collected by the Home Office alongside the immigration application fee.

The health surcharge must be paid for each applicant and for each dependant included in a visa application. This ensures that Non- EEA migrants make a proportionate financial contribute to the NHS.

The health surcharge must be paid for in full for each year, or part of a year that the applicant is applying to stay in the UK for.

If your visa application is curtailed then you may be chargeable from this point for any NHS treatment you receive.

## Attending an NHS hospital

Whilst studying if you or a family member or friend need to visit an NHS hospital for treatment you need to bring documents with you in order to ascertain a person's eligibility to NHS treatment.

If you are studying in the UK you need to bring proof that you are currently studying in the UK, your passport and visa, proof of paying the health surcharge and proof of residing in the UK.

If you or a family member or friend are visiting the UK then you need to bring proof of personal medical or travel insurance which will cover the cost of your hospital treatment.

## Who will need to pay for NHS treatment?

If you or a family member or friends are visiting England from a non-EEA country, even if you or they are a former UK resident, you need to ensure you are covered for healthcare through personal medical or travel insurance for the duration of your visit.

If you need NHS treatment and you have not arranged insurance, you will be charged at 150% of the standard NHS rate, unless an exemption category applies to either you or the treatment.

If the Trust is satisfied that the patient is an overseas visitor then the Trust must charge the patient for the NHS services provided.

It is unacceptable for an invoice not to be raised for treatment because it is believed or claimed that there is an inability to pay.

Overseas visitors with personal medical or travel insurance will be required to pay for their treatment and then claim back from their insurer on their return home.

The Trust will ensure that treatment, which is immediately necessary, is provided to any patient even if they have not paid in advance. Failure to provide immediately necessary treatment may be unlawful under the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Urgent treatment** will be provided to any patient, even if deposits have not been secured.

**Non-urgent or elective treatment** will not be provided unless the estimated full charge is received in advance of treatment.

Charges found to apply cannot be waived. However, any patient undergoing "immediately necessary" treatment will be reassured that this will not be withheld or withdrawn in the event of the patient being unable to pay.

## Recovery of Income

Reasonable measures are taken to pursue overseas visitors' debt and international debt recovery agencies will be employed.

Patients should be aware that under immigration rules 320, 321, 321A and 322. a person with outstanding debts of over £500.00 for NHS treatment that are not paid within three months of invoicing, may be denied a further immigration application to enter or remain in the UK.