

# **Are you visiting the United Kingdom?**

**A leaflet providing information to visitors to the  
United Kingdom about payment for hospital**

Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Residents irrespective of nationality of the following countries:  
Anguilla, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Channel Islands,  
Falkland Islands, Iceland, Isle of Man, Montserrat, St. Helena, Turks and  
Caicos Islands.

\* Please ask for details of coverage

This leaflet is a general guide and not a full statement of the current  
regulations. Please ask at the hospital providing treatment for further  
information or see the Department of Health web-site at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/overseasvisitors](http://www.dh.gov.uk/overseasvisitors)

- Anyone, including a refugee, stateless person or a member of the family of any of them, who normally lives in another EEA member state is visiting the UK.
- Anyone, or the spouse or child of anyone, receiving a UK state pension who has either lived legally in the UK for 10 continuous years at some point or has worked as a UK Civil Servant for at least 10 continuous years.
- Anyone, or the spouse or child of anyone, who is a national of a country that has signed the European Social Charter but is not entitled to be provided with services under current bilateral agreements (currently Turkey and areas of Cyprus not covered under the EEA arrangements) and is genuinely without the means to pay for their treatment.
- Anyone, or the spouse or child of anyone, who has lived legally in the UK for 10 continuous years at some point, who is now living in another EEA member state, or in certain countries with which the UK has a bilateral healthcare agreement.
- Anyone who is entitled to receive industrial injury benefit from Israel if the treatment is in connection with the industrial injury.
- Anyone living in a country with which the UK has a bilateral healthcare agreement (some bilateral healthcare agreements are limited to nationals of that country).

## Bilateral Healthcare Agreement Countries

### European Economic Area (EEA) countries:

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

Nationals of and UK nationals in, the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Yugoslavia i.e. Serbia & Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Macedonia, Moldova, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan,

## Introduction

Hospital treatment is free to people who live in the United Kingdom (UK). If you do not normally live here and you do not meet one of the exemptions from charges then you will have to pay for treatment you might need. This is regardless of whether you are a British citizen or have lived or worked here in the past or have been issued with an HC2 certificate.

If you are not covered by any of the exemption categories listed in this leaflet it is advisable to ensure you have adequate health insurance to cover the duration of your stay in the UK.

## How do I know if I have to pay?

The law says that the hospital providing treatment must decide if each patient is entitled to free NHS hospital treatment. The hospital will ask you to provide evidence to confirm your eligibility. If the hospital decides you can receive free NHS treatment, you will still have to pay for statutory NHS charges such as prescription charges unless you are otherwise exempt. If the hospital decides you are not entitled to free NHS treatment, charges will apply and cannot be set aside. This will include the full cost of any prescribed medication even if you are in possession of an HC2 exemption certificate.

## What do I have to pay for?

The full cost of all treatment you receive, including emergency treatment, given by staff at a hospital or by staff employed by a hospital. There are some services that are free of charge to everyone:

- Treatment given only in an Accident and Emergency department or in a NHS Walk-in Centre providing services similar to those of an A&E department (excludes emergency treatment given elsewhere in the hospital);
- Treatment for certain infectious diseases (excluding HIV/AIDS where it is only the first diagnosis and connected counselling sessions that are charge free);

- Compulsory psychiatric treatment;
- Family planning services; Overseas Visitors Policy Unit, Department of Health, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE

## Who does not have to pay?

### People Entitled to Full NHS Hospital Treatment

- Anyone who is working in the UK for an employer who is based in the UK or is registered in the UK as a branch of an overseas employer (this includes self employed people). You must be actually working, not just looking for work.
- Any unpaid worker with a voluntary organisation offering services similar to those of a Health Authority or Local Authority social services department.
- Any full time student on a course of at least 6 months duration, or if less than 6 months, is substantially funded by the UK government.
- Anyone who has come to live permanently in the UK. If you make an application for permanent residence after you get here, you are chargeable until your application is approved.
- Anyone who has been lawfully living in the UK for twelve months immediately prior to treatment.
- Refugees and asylum seekers whose application is still being considered.
- Anyone employed on a ship or vessel registered in the UK or working offshore on the UK sector of the Continental Shelf.
- Anyone who receives a UK war disablement pension or war widows pension.
- Diplomatic staff working in embassies or Commonwealth High Commissions in the UK.
- Members of Her Majesty's UK armed forces.
- UK Civil Servants working abroad who were recruited in the UK and employed by Her Majesty's Government.
- Anyone recruited in the UK who works abroad for the British Council or the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Anyone who is working abroad in a job financed in part by the UK Government in agreement with the Government or a public body of some other country or territory.
- Anyone working abroad for not more than 5 years as long as they have lived legally in the UK for ten continuous years at some point (including self employed people).
- Anyone working in an EEA country member state and contributing compulsory (not voluntary) UK national insurance contributions (class I or II).
- Anyone who is a national of an EEA member state, a refugee or stateless person or their dependant or survivor living in an EEA member state who is referred to the UK for specified treatment with an EC form E112 or E123.
- Anyone who is referred by their home country authorities for specified treatment in the UK under the terms of a bilateral agreement.
- Anyone who is detained in prison by the Immigration Authorities in the UK.
- Serving NATO personnel, posted in the UK, who are not using their own or UK armed forces hospitals.
- UK state pensioners who have lived lawfully in the UK for 10 continuous years at some point, who now live for not more than 6 months each year in another EEA member state and not less than 6 months each year in the UK.
- The spouse and any dependent children of anyone who is exempt under the above criteria, if they are living permanently with the exempt person. Coming to visit for a few weeks or months does not give exemption.

### People Entitled to Some NHS Hospital Treatment

- This is limited to treatment required for any condition that occurred after arrival in the UK.