

Information for overseas visitors about hospital treatment and paying for care

This information is for overseas visitors who are coming to hospital. It explains who is eligible for (able to receive) free hospital treatment under the National Health Service (NHS). It also tells you about payment for hospital care.

If you have difficulty understanding this information, please tell us and we can try to arrange for services to support you to read this document.

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. Anyone who is not ordinarily resident is subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitor) Regulations 1989, as amended.

What does ordinarily resident mean?

In 1982, the government (House of Lords) explained that **ordinarily resident** means someone who:

- is living lawfully in the UK voluntarily **and**
- is settled in their day to day life for the time being **and**
- has identifiable purpose (reason) for living here.

How do I know if I have to pay?

The regulations state that the hospital providing the treatment is responsible for finding out who is entitled to free NHS hospital treatment. Therefore, we will make the decision based on the regulations. We can ask you to provide evidence to support any claim to free treatment and it is your responsibility to do so if asked. If we consider that you are not entitled to free NHS treatment, we will charge you for your treatment. There are certain circumstances when exceptions might apply but we will discuss this with you if it applies to you.

If I am not eligible for free treatment, what will I have to pay for?

We will charge you for **any treatment** given by staff at a hospital or by staff employed by a hospital. The only exceptions are:


- Treatment given in an accident and emergency (A&E) department. This does **not include** emergency treatment given anywhere else in the hospital or prescribed medication).
- Treatment given in a walk-in centre providing similar services an A&E department.
- Compulsory psychiatric treatment. This means enforced care (that you have to have) for mental health problems.
- Family planning services (this means birth control and contraception services).

Charges will be according to NHS tariff for Inpatient, Daycase and Outpatient attendance.


All prescribed medication will have to be paid for.


Who should I contact for further information?

The Overseas Visitors Team can provide you with more detailed information. The office is open from 08.00 to 17.00 hours Monday to Friday They can be contacted as follows:

 By telephone: **020 8725 3439** or **020 8725 4693**. If you are calling outside of office hours, please leave a message on our answer phone and we will return your call.

 By email: overseaspatients@stgeorges.nhs.uk

 By fax: 020 8275 3612

 In person at the Overseas and Private Patients Office, Ground Floor, Atkinson Morley Wing

Further information

You might also find it useful to look at the Department of Health website for more information www.dh.gov.uk/overseasvisitors

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