

Overseas Patients

Updated: 5 October 2017

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust current response to FOI requests regarding Overseas Patients (pilot schemes)

The Pilot Project in Obstetrics was reported in the Trust's October 2017 Board Papers here:

<https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/October-2017-Public-Board-Papers-Combined-PDF-2.pdf>

Evaluation of Overseas Visitors and Migrant Cost Recovery Project

5.10 The CFO introduced the report which set out the findings from the Overseas Visitors study in Obstetrics. The aim was to establish the eligibility of patients for free NHS treatment and the pilot was part of a Department of Health and NHSI strategy to recover income from patients who were not eligible for free NHS care. As at 31.12.16 the overall outstanding Trust debt from overseas visitors was circa £5m with £1.75m attributable to Obstetrics.

5.11 During the pilot, new processes were introduced which required all new patients to provide two forms of identification and proof of residency at their first appointment. This helped identify whether the patient was legally resident in the UK in the previous 12 months and entitled to free NHS care. Following the introduction of the new processes 99% of the total patients seen were able to confirm eligibility. The remaining 1% (18 patients) were not eligible and were invoiced accordingly.

Please also note that the Department of Health plans to publish feedback on all Trusts that were involved in the studies later in the year.