

## People entitled to some NHS Hospital Treatment

This is limited to treatment required for any condition that occurred **after** arrival in the United Kingdom.

- Anyone, including a refugee, stateless person or a member of the family of any of them, who normally lives in another EEA Member State but 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 time 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 a bilateral agreement (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 children of anyone, who has lived legally in the UK for 10 continuous years at some point but 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 agreements are limited to nationals of that country).

## Bilateral Healthcare Agreement Countries

European Economic Area countries (EEA):-

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

## Nationals and UK Nationals of the following countries:-

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

## Residents irrespective of nationality of the following countries:-

Anguilla, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Falklands, Iceland, Jersey, Montserrat, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**You should be aware that under immigration rules 320, 321, 321A and 322, a person with outstanding debts of over £1000 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. In the absence of prompt full settlement or a reasonable payment schedule, information relating to this debt is provided routinely to the UK Border Agency and may be used by the Agency to apply the above immigration rules. This information will remain active for the purpose of the above rules until the debt is settled and a record of the settled debt will also be retained, both subject to normal limitation periods.**

**In the event that you may seek entry to the UK or make an advance immigration application, after settling an NHS debt in the previous three months, you are advised to retain and carry evidence of payment for potential examination by UK Border Agency officials.**

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 website

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

# Are you visiting the United Kingdom?



**NHS Hospital treatment is not free to everyone. You may need to pay for hospital treatment.**

Lister Hospital / Queen Elizabeth II Hospital

Coreys Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

Tel: 01438 285262 / 286343 Fax: 01438 284434

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Rickmansworth Road, Northwood Middlesex HA6 2RN

Tel: 01923 844738 Fax: 01923 844295

Hospital treatment is free to people who live lawfully 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 any treatment you might need. This is regardless of whether you are a British Citizen or have been issued a HC2 certificate.

**If you are NOT covered by any of the exempt 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.**

### **Frequently asked questions: - 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 A&E department or in an NHS Walk-In Centre providing services similar to those of an A&E department (excludes emergency treatment given elsewhere in 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.

### **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 residency after you get here you are chargeable until your application is approved.
- Anyone who has been lawfully living in the UK for 12 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 off-shore on the UK sector of the Continental Shelf.
- Anyone who receives a UK war disablement pension or war widows pension.
- Diplomatic staff working at embassies or Commonwealth High Commissions in the UK.
- Members in 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 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 10 continuous years at some point (including self-employed people).

- Anyone working in an EEA 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 dependent or survivor living in an EEA member state who is referred to the UK for specified treatment with an EC form S2 (formally Form E112) or E123.
- Anyone who is referred by their home country authorities for specific treatment in the UK under the terms of bilateral agreement.
- Anyone who is detained in prison or 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 legally lived in the UK for 10 continuous years at some point, who are now living not less than 6 months in the UK and not more than 6 months in another EEA Member State and who are not registered as resident in another EEA Member State.
- **The husband or wife 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.**
- Children in the care of a Local Authority.
- Failed asylum seekers supported by UKBA under Section 4 or Section 95.