

Information for Overseas Visitors

Welcome to the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust. You have been given this document as it is believed you may be a visitor to the UK or have recently arrived in the country.

Accident and Emergency care is free of charge to all. However, charges may apply if you are admitted to a ward or referred to a outpatient clinic.

We hope this document will provide you with some information about NHS treatment in the UK and how it applies to visitors.

Who can have their healthcare free of charge?

The NHS works on a residency-based system, therefore is not free of charge to everybody. Persons who can access treatment free of charge are either "Ordinarily Resident" in The UK or are Overseas Visitors who are classified as being exempt from healthcare charges such as a person who has paid the International Health Surcharge. To be ordinarily resident, a person must be able to live in the UK legally and be doing so permanently.

Do visitors have to pay for all their treatment?

No. Any treatment provided in Accident and Emergency is free of charge to all. If you were to be admitted on to a ward (outside of the A&E department) or referred to an outpatient clinic, charges would then apply.

Overseas Visitors Team

If you were to progress from Accident and Emergency, the Overseas Visitors Team will contact you to further explain the process at the earliest opportunity. If you were to return for an outpatient appointment, a letter will be sent to your UK address explaining the next steps.

The Overseas Visitors Team can be contacted using the below details if you would like any further advice:

Philip Ashworth/ James Pickles
Overseas Visitors Co-Ordinators

Tel: 01422 222963
philip.ashworth@cht.nhs.uk
james.pickles@cht.nhs.uk

How much will my care cost?

If you attend an outpatient's appointment then there is a tariff that will tell you approximately the cost. If you are an inpatient, the final cost can only be confirmed after discharge. An approximate costing will be given in the form of a pro-forma invoice but this is only an approximation and should never be understood as a definitive final amount.

If you're an inpatient, you will be charged for the treatment you receive not the amount of time you spend in hospital. All costs will be calculated from the treatment that you receive and are based on a national tariff. It is important that you complete your course of treatment before leaving hospital.

Inpatients will be asked to make a payment towards their treatment. This can either be the full or part of the estimated cost. If you are not willing to make a payment towards this; we can only offer care which is immediately necessary or urgent. Any non-urgent care will not be provided until a payment is made.

As a visitor, what healthcare am I entitled to?

All healthcare that is classified by a clinician as “immediately necessary” or so urgent that it cannot wait until a patient returns to their homeland cannot and will not be withheld from patients irrespective of payment issues. However, it will be charged for. All maternity care is classed as immediately necessary treatment.

Immediately necessary healthcare is treatment that is needed for the following reasons

1. To save a person’s life
2. To prevent a condition from becoming immediately life threatening
3. It is needed promptly to prevent serious damage from occurring.

Information for visitors from within the European Union

If you are visiting from a country within the European Union, or a country that participates in the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) scheme, you may claim free healthcare by one of the following methods:

European Health Insurance Card: You may present a valid EHIC. You can show this at reception where they will take a copy. If you are doing this, please also provide your home address in the nation where your EHIC was issued.

You can also email or send a copy of the card directly to the Overseas Visitors Team using the addresses overleaf.

Provisional Replacement Certificates (PRC): If you do not have a EHIC, you may provide a PRC.

The start date of this should be on or before the date that you first received hospital treatment. The end date should be the day on, or after which, you last received treatment. If you go to the following website address it will tell you how to get a PRC. You should click on the Institutions by country section and then on the flag of the country where you are resident.

If you provide your PRC you should also provide your address in your home nation.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1028&langId=en>

S1 form: Persons in receipt of a UK State Pension can register an S1 from The UK with the local authorities in the country of their residence. In this case they and their family members may receive healthcare in The UK as entitled ordinary residents. If you have an S1 form, you may evidence this to prove entitlement to free healthcare

If you want any more advice or have any more queries on this matter, please contact the Overseas Visitors Team using the above details.

James Pickles/ Philip Ashworth
Overseas Visitors Co-Ordinators
Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust