

Information for Patients

Overseas/Chargeable Patients Service

Are you visiting the UK? Did you know that you may have to pay for hospital treatment whilst you are here?

This leaflet explains why you may be charged for your hospital attendances and treatments. The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (MREH) overseas visitors team will be advised that you are accessing NHS care at this hospital and will contact you by letter requesting that you attend an interview to assess your eligibility for NHS funded care. Enclosed with the appointment letter for interview will be a separate sheet outlining the type of evidence that may be required depending on your circumstances.

Establishing your entitlement to NHS funded treatment

In accordance with the Department of Health Guidelines (2015), the Trust must establish whether all patients are entitled to NHS funded treatment. This will involve asking you the following questions:

1. Have you been living legally in the UK for the last 12 months?
2. Can you show that have the right to receive NHS funded treatment free of charge?

All patients with less than 12 months residence in the UK will be asked to demonstrate their entitlement to NHS funded treatment. If this is not available, the Trust will charge you for all attendances and treatment received.

During the meeting with the overseas visitors team, you will be asked to provide evidence to support your claim to NHS funded treatment.

- If you are visiting from the European Economic Area (EEA), to be eligible to receive NHS funded treatment you are required to produce either an European Health Insurance card (EHIC) or provisional replacement Certificate (PRC) S1 or S2 form or travel insurance documents.
- If you are visiting from a non-EU country, you will be asked to provide your visa and passport. If you are travelling on a visit visa, you will not be exempt from charge and will be asked to complete and sign an undertaking to pay form.
- If you are visiting from a country that has a reciprocal agreement with the United Kingdom, then you will be asked to produce your passport and overseas address. **It is important to note that you are entitled to emergency NHS funded treatment only.** Outpatient clinic attendances and elective admissions are chargeable.
- If you are a failed asylum seeker you will not be exempt from charges for treatment even if you have an on-going appeal in process.
- If you arrived in this country after the 6th April 2015 from a Non EEA country and have paid the health surcharge, you will be exempt from charges and will be treated as a NHS patient so long as you are not in breach of your visa purpose or conditions. This will be checked by the Trust overseas visitors team at the time of your interview.

If there is any uncertainty regarding your entitlement to NHS funded treatment, the Trust will contact the Home Office Evidence and Enquiry Unit to establish your status in the UK; this will determine your entitlement to NHS funded treatment.

If you are not entitled to NHS funded treatment you will be asked to sign an Undertaking to pay form and to make a payment prior to any treatment being commenced.