



NHS
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Are you

visiting the

United Kingdom ?
(Wales)



Did you know that
you may have
to pay for
hospital treatment
whilst here?

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INTRODUCTION

Hospital treatment is free to people who live 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 lived or worked here in the past or have been issued a HC2 certificate.

IF YOU ARE NOT COVERED BY ANY OF THE EXEMPTION 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.

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 to free treatment and it is your responsibility to prove you are entitled to free treatment and provide documentary evidence to support your claim. If the hospital decides you are not entitled to free NHS treatment charges will apply and cannot be set aside.

TREATMENT

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.

What don't I have to pay for?

There are some services that are free of charge to everyone:

- Treatment given only in an accident and emergency department or casualty (excludes emergency treatment given elsewhere in the hospital);
- Treatment for certain infectious diseases (excluding HIV/AIDS where it is only the first diagnosis and connected counselling sessions that are free);
- Treatment given to people detained under the provisions of the Mental Health Act;
- Family planning services.

WHO DOES NOT HAVE TO PAY?

- 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.
- 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 residence after you get here you are chargeable until your application is approved.
- Anyone who has been lawfully living in the UK for twelve months immediately prior to treatment.
- Asylum seekers whose application is still being considered.
- Anyone employed on a ship or vessel registered in the UK.
- Anyone who receives an UK war disablement pension or war widows pension.
- Diplomatic staff working at embassies or Commonwealth High Commissions in the UK.

- Members of Her Majesty's UK armed forces.
- UK Civil Servants working abroad who were recruited in the UK.
- 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 another Government or a public body.
- 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.
- Anyone working in an EEA member state and contributing compulsory (not voluntary) UK national insurance contributions (class I or II).
- Anyone from an EEA member state who is referred to the UK for specified treatment with an E112.
- Anyone who is referred by their home country authorities for specified treatment in the UK under the terms of a 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 live for not more than 6 months each year in another EEA member state and not less than 6 months each year in the UK.
- A civil partner, spouse and any dependant children of anyone who is exempt under the above criteria are also exempt from charges, if they are living permanently with the exempt person or in the UK with the exempt person for the duration of their visit.
- Anyone from an EEA member state is exempt from all necessary treatment during a visit.
- Anyone from a non-EEA country is exempt from immediately necessary treatment.

BILATERAL HEALTHCARE ARRANGEMENT COUNTRIES

European Economic Area countries (EEA)

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus (Southern), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, 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, Croatia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Macedonia, Moldova, New Zealand, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Serbia & Montenegro

Residents irrespective of nationality of the following countries

Anguilla, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands, Iceland, Isle of Man, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands

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.

