

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Title: Reciprocal Healthcare Agreements WHC/2016/013

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For Action by:
Chief Executives
Local Health Boards
NHS Trusts

Action required by:
Immediate

Sender:
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Enclosure(s): Annex A

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Reciprocal Healthcare Agreements

1. As you are aware the UK has reciprocal agreements with some non-EEA countries. Overseas visitors who can provide evidence that they are nationals, citizens or lawful residents of one of these countries should be treated as exempt from charges in respect of treatment which the relevant agreement entitles them to, whilst in the UK.
2. The following countries whose agreements were terminated on 1 January 2016:
 - Armenia
 - Azerbaijan
 - Belarus
 - Georgia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Moldova
 - Russia
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Ukraine
 - Uzbekistan
3. Anyone now seeking healthcare from the above countries should be charged for their treatment, unless they meet any of the exemption criteria as set out in the *Overseas Visitor Hospital Charging Guidance 2015*. The Department of Health in England is considering further potential changes to the remaining list of UK reciprocal agreements and we will notify you as soon as we are made aware of any further changes.
4. We will be issuing revised, updated *Overseas Visitor Hospital Charging Guidance* to reflect changes implemented since the existing guidance was issued. This will include the above changes to the list of reciprocal agreement countries. A draft of the revised guidance is currently with your respective overseas visitor managers for comment and to inform the final consultation document.