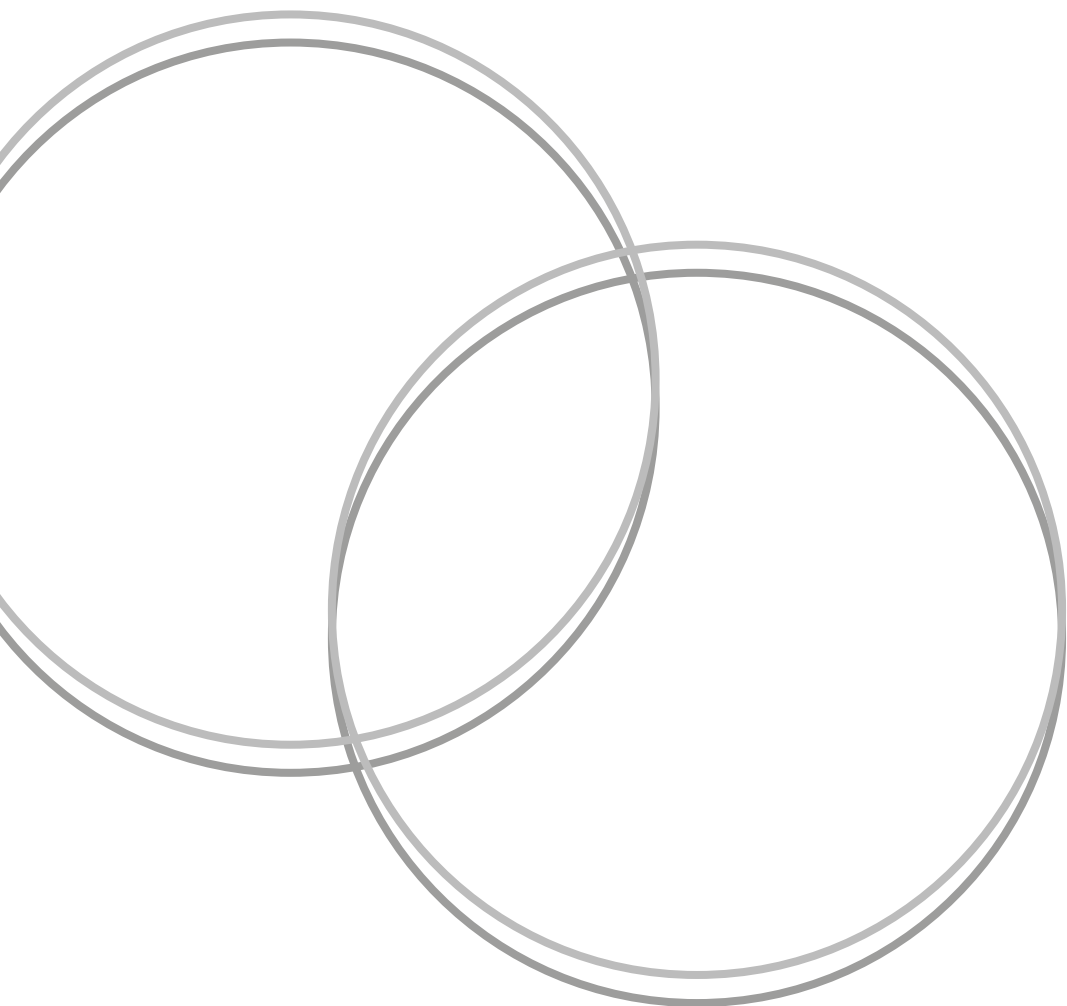




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Overseas Patients

Information for patients



NHS Hospital treatment is not free for everyone

If you are visiting the United Kingdom (UK) and require treatment in our hospitals, you may have to pay for your treatment.

Individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK, including those visiting or who have lived abroad for over six months, may be considered 'overseas visitors' and could be charged for treatment at NHS hospitals, including those within Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The hospitals are legally required to determine a person's residency status and charge those without exemption, regardless of citizenship or previous residence or work in the UK.

NHS services and treatments which are free for everyone:

Some NHS services are free to everyone.

These include:

- family-planning services (**excluding** maternity treatment i.e. assisted conception and termination of pregnancy)
- diagnosis and treatment of certain infectious diseases
- treatment at the Emergency Department (A&E) only.
- treatment required for a physical or mental condition caused by **torture, female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic violence** or **sexual violence** - this does not apply if you have come to England to seek this treatment.

Treatment at the Emergency Department (A&E) is free only up to the point of admission as an inpatient or if/when given an outpatient appointment referral. It does **not**, therefore, include emergency treatment given **after admission to the hospital as an inpatient or outpatient**. Treatment at this point is **chargeable** to non-exempt visitors.

Exemptions

Hospital treatment is free to people who are 'ordinarily resident' in the UK.

To be considered ordinarily resident and entitled to free hospital treatment, you must be living in the UK on a lawful and properly settled basis for the time being. You must have leave to remain status or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Also those who fall under the following categories are considered not chargeable:

- British nationals working overseas for UK employers, Government agencies and charity organisations funded by the UK government
- NATO personnel, their spouse/civil partner, and children under 18 provided they are lawfully present in the UK
- Overseas students in the UK on courses over six months' duration and who have paid the Health Surcharge
- People, and their dependants, who make an application for asylum, temporary protection or humanitarian protection
- Children who are looked after by a Local Authority
- Victims of modern slavery (which includes victims of trafficking or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour) with a positive conclusive grounds decision
- People who make applications for leave to remain under the Home Office Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (would only be entitled to free assisted conception services on the same basis as a resident, if the need to the services was as a result of domestic violence and the person had not travelled to the UK to receive treatment)

Evidence of entitlement

To help us check if you are entitled to free healthcare, you will need to bring two separate documents to your appointment - one to prove your identity, and one to prove your address.

Proof of identity

The following documents can be used as proof of identity:

- Current signed passport
- Residence permit issued by UK Border Agency
- Valid UK photo-card driving licence
- EU or Swiss national identity photo-card
- Valid armed forces or police photographic identity card
- Photographic disabled blue badge
- Citizen card

Proof of address

The following documents can be used as proof of address (they must contain your current address and be dated within the last six months).

- Recent original utility bill such as gas, electric, water, landline (excluding mobile phone)
- Council Tax bill for the current year
- Bank, building society or credit union statement or passbook
- Recent original mortgage statement from a recognised lender
- Current council or housing association rent book or tenancy agreement
- Notification letter from the Department for Work and Pensions confirming your right to benefits or a state pension

If you cannot provide the documents you may have to pay a deposit equal to the estimated cost of your treatment before you receive an appointment or treatment.

Maternity services, or treatment which the doctor or nurse thinks is immediately necessary or urgent, will not be withheld, but charges will apply and you will receive an invoice after your treatment.

European Economic Area (EEA) / Swiss Patients

European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss patients may be eligible for NHS healthcare in the UK, depending on reciprocal arrangements. EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nationals (including Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) must provide appropriate documentation, such as a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), Provisional Replacement Card (PRC) S1, S2 or E112 form, to access treatment without charge.

If documents are not provided or an exemption cannot be shown, patients will need to pay and may reclaim costs later. Students must also supply an EHIC or PRC. Some visitors from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland may still be charged for NHS care and should check with their local health authority before travelling.

For more information please visit:

- **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**
www.employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/moving-working-europe/eu-social-security-coordination/european-health-insurance-card_en
- **Visitors from EU countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland - NHS Website**
www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/visitors-from-eu-countries-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-or-switzerland/

Travel Insurance

If you have insurance cover, the cost of treatment will be charged to the individual who remains responsible for payment.

Unless the hospital has a letter of guarantee from your insurers authorising your treatment, you will need to settle your account and reclaim this from your insurers.

Cost of treatment

We will give you an estimated cost for your treatment, in advance if possible. Costs are based on the Standard National HRG Tariffs applied throughout the UK.

Failure to pay

If you fail to pay for NHS treatment for which charges are appropriate, your future application to enter or remain in the UK may be denied.

Necessary (non-medical) personal information may be passed via the Department of Health and Social Care to the Home Office for this purpose.

It is the responsibility of the Overseas Visitor to pay for their medical treatment in the UK.

If you were not informed that a charge would apply, under the Charging Regulations you are still liable for the charge.

Contact us

If you have any queries about overseas visitors, please contact us.

All hospital sites:

Email: overseasvisitors@ouh.nhs.uk

Tel: (+44) 1865 743309

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



Making a difference across our hospitals

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OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

