

Dialysis for Overseas students and charges:-

NHS hospital treatment is free for those who are ordinarily resident in the UK (ie living here on a lawful and settled basis). Someone who is not ordinarily resident in the UK is deemed an 'overseas visitor'. However, some overseas visitors to the UK are exempt from charges under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulations) 1989, as amended.

What if I should need hospital treatment?

Under the current Regulations, anyone who comes to the UK to pursue a full-time course of study of not less than six months' duration, or a course of study that is of any duration but is substantially funded by the UK Government, will be fully entitled to free NHS hospital treatment **including dialysis** in England. This exemption will apply to your spouse/civil partner and children (under the age of 16, or 19 if in further education) if they are living permanently with you in the UK for the duration of your course. In common with those ordinarily resident in the UK, anyone who is exempt from charges will have to pay statutory NHS charges, eg prescription charges, unless they also qualify for exemption from these, and will have to go onto waiting lists for treatment where appropriate.

If I should need hospital treatment what documents will I need?

The Regulations place the responsibility on individual hospitals to determine whether, in accordance with the Regulations, a patient is liable to be charged for treatment or not. In order to establish entitlement, hospitals can ask you to provide documentation that supports your claim that you intend to study in the UK. It is for you to decide what to supply, however examples of evidence could include:

- a valid student visa if you are not an EEA national or from Switzerland; and
- proof of attendance on a qualifying course of study, or that such a course of study has recently been completed.

Am I entitled to access primary care services?

General Practitioners (GPs) have a measure of discretion in accepting applications to join their patient lists. It is advisable to approach a GP practice and apply to register onto its list of NHS patients. The practice may choose to accept or decline your application. An application may be refused if the practice has reasonable grounds for doing so. A practice would not be able to refuse your application on the grounds of race, gender, social class, age, religion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability or medical condition. If you have difficulty in registering with a GP, you should get in touch with your local Primary Care Trust (PCT). Being registered with a GP or unregistered has no bearing on entitlement to free NHS hospital treatment - that is governed by the above mentioned regulations.

See the Department of Health's website for more details - www.dh.gov.uk/overseasvisitors

**Overseas Visitors Policy
Department of Health
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