



Surrey and Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

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Our ref: 4685

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Freedom of information request

I am writing in response to your request for information which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

1. Please tell me whether the trust carries out routine identity checks on patients attending outpatient appointments to ascertain whether they are ordinarily resident in the UK. **Yes**

2. If yes, please answer the following questions:

A) Which patients undergo such checks? (– eg all those attending first appointment for a new care pathway) **All potential overseas visitors who are either flagged up by our PAS (Patient Administration system), or identified by members of staff (wards, outpatients and other departments) undergo such checks, either in person, face-to-face via an interview before the appointment or during their inpatient stay, or via written letter.**

B) Please state what forms of documentation they have to provide? (eg passports, proof of address) **All patients who have been identified as overseas are required to provide a set of documentary evidence to the Trust Overseas team, specifically –**

Passport / ID card, UK driving licence, visa photo page, evidence of employment in the UK (job contract and 3 months of wage slips), bank statements for 3-6 months, paid utility bills, UK pension statements, marriage certificates, evidence of studying the UK (letters from a university or a school); tenancy or mortgage agreements etc. The list of documents differs depending on circumstances, what visa a patient is on, what purpose they are in the UK for and whether they are from EU or non-EU area. Please note that we do not request all of these documents from each individual but a sufficient evidence to enable us to ascertain their eligibility / chargeable status.

C) What happens if they cannot provide proof of being ordinarily resident? Any potential overseas visitor who do not provide sufficient evidence or ignore our letters are charged in accordance with the Department of Health guidelines and Overseas tariffs and invoiced for treatment received / provided by our Trust.

3. Please also state how many Overseas Visitor Managers (OVMs) or Overseas Visitor Officers (OVOs) are employed by the trust (Please state as Full Time Equivalent) 2.43 FTE

4. Please state the highest bill which is still outstanding owed by an overseas visitor for a) 2017/18 to date and b) 2016/17. 2017/18 £41,898 and 2016/17 £36,000

5. In relation to question 4, please broadly state the nature of the treatment (eg ophthalmology, kidney dialysis, obstetrics) and the nationality of the patient, if known.
£36,000 – General Surgery – USA
£41,898 – Critical care medicine followed by general medicine – Sri Lanka