

Patients from Overseas who qualify for free NHS Care & Treatment

Emergency Treatment is FREE to all (immediately necessary treatment)

Entitlement to **free NHS** care is based on **residency** status and **NOT** nationality. The instances where patients can access free NHS care can be summarised as:-

- They are nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland (provided the need for treatment arose during their visit to the UK).
- They have a European Health Insurance Card – these are for visitors staying for less than 3 months – therefore would be treated as Temporary Residents.
- Asylum seekers & Refugees (they must be able to show a H2 certificate or Applicant Registration Card (ARC))
Work Permit Holders – only free if the permit is for a period of six months to one year, spouses and children are also entitled to free care
- Where there is a reciprocal agreement with the patient’s country of origin (see appendix A for list of countries)

ALL overseas patients who claim to be residents in this country and wish to register with the practice **MUST** produce a **PASSPORT** and relevant documentation to prove residency in UK for more than 6 months (a visa or a utility bill would suffice). Where patients state they have **NO** passport they must be able to produce an ID card **AND** proof of residency, again this should be evidence of an address where mail is received (a utility bill is sufficient). **As a general rule visitors from the following countries are entitled to free NHS care for the duration of their stay**

Anguilla	Finland	Montserrat
Armenia	France	Netherlands
Australia	Georgia	New Zealand
Austria	Germany	Poland
Azerbaijan	Gibraltar	Portugal
Barbados	Greece	Republic of Ireland
Belarus	Hungary	Romania
Belgium	Iceland	Russia
Bosnia	Isle of Man	Slovakia
British Virgin Islands	Italy	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Spain
Channel Islands	Kyrgyzstan	Sweden
Croatia	Latvia	Tajikistan
Cyprus	Lithuania	Turkmenistan
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Turks & Caicos Islands
Denmark	Macedonia	Ukraine
Estonia	Malta	Uzbekistan
Falkland Islands	Moldova	Yugoslavia (Serbia & Montenegro)

**Visitors who do not have the relevant paperwork or do not come from one of the above countries should be told they do not qualify for NHS care and will therefore have to be seen as private patients. Please advise them to contact
The Private GP Service at ALBYN HOSPITAL
Telephone 01224 577426**