

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_34_19

You asked:

I am writing to request the following information regarding the implementation of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 (as amended)* in your health board.

Specifically, I would like to know:

1. How many patients were classified as "overseas visitors" in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018)?

18 patients in the above financial period were classified as Overseas Visitors.

2. How many patients in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018) were charged for NHS treatment due to being "overseas visitors"?

Five.

3. What was the total cost of NHS treatment charged to "overseas visitors" in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018)?

£2726.08

a. If less than 10 patients were charged in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018), please provide a summary of what treatment they were charged for and the total cost for each patient.

Procedure Assessment, CT scan & USS of abdomen	808.63
Repair to fractured ankle	506.00
Appointments with Cardiac Rehabilitation Service	836.58
Rheumatology & Anaesthetics	277.76
Outpatient treatment	297.11

4. Are any of these charges still outstanding/unpaid? If so, please state how much has not been paid.

£1922.97 not paid.

5. What is the process for identifying “overseas visitors” within the health board?

If a patient is admitted to the Health Board the onus is on the ward staff to notify the Deputy Medical Records Manager and that individual would interview the patient in-line with the Welsh Governments ‘Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulation’ to determine patients eligibility to free NHS treatment.

If a patient is referred from Primary Care and there is a miscorrelation between the patients NHS number and their date of birth, the patient is asked to provide documentation so that we can determine their eligibility to free NHS treatment.

6. Which team is responsible for the implementation of the above regulations?

This role currently sits within the Medical Records Dept and the Medical Records Manager and Deputy Medical Records Manager.

7. Does the health board employ any staff members whose sole or main job is to identify “overseas visitors” and/or administer charging for treatment for these patients?

Not currently.