

Reference:	FOI.039
Subject:	Charges for overseas visitors
Date of Request:	31 January 2019

Requested

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:

- How many patients were classified as “overseas visitors” in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018)?
- How many patients in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018) were charged for NHS treatment due to being “overseas visitors”?
- What was the total cost of NHS treatment charged to “overseas visitors” in the last financial year (1 April 2017-31 March 2018)?
- 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.
- Are any of these charges still outstanding/unpaid? If so, please state how much has not been paid.
- What is the process for identifying “overseas visitors” within the health board?
- Which team is responsible for the implementation of the above regulations?
- 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?

*Amendments are summarised in Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations: Guidance for Hospitals in Wales, Version 6 - 7 December 2009. Available: <https://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/guidance/implementing/?lang=en>

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) treated 108 patients that were classified as overseas visitors between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. Please note these do not include patients who attended the Accident and Emergency department and overseas visitors who paid the health surcharge.
2. Within the 2017/18 financial year the UHB charged 56 patients for NHS treatment due to being overseas visitors. The remaining 52 patients’ costs were recouped by Welsh Government allocation.
3. The total costs of NHS treatment to overseas visitors that were directly invoiced for their treatment within the 2017/18 financial year was £158,997.17
4. The UHB charged more than 10 patients, therefore this is not applicable.

5. The UHB has £18,881.00 in overseas visitors charges outstanding from the 2017/18 financial year. The outstanding balance is either being paid by instalments, or being actively managed through our debt collection process.
6. The UHB works in accordance with the “Procedure For The Identification And Charging Of Overseas Visitors For NNS Treatment”, a copy of which has been attached.
7. The whole organisation is responsible for the implementation of the guidance, with overarching responsibility sitting with the finance team.