

Overseas Healthcare Team
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8UG

To: Chief Executives of all NHS Trusts in England

Copy: Monitor

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Revenue Generation Initiative - Reporting Information About Treatment Of Overseas Visitors

Summary: This note reminds chief executives about the ability to reclaim the costs of treating visitors from the EEA and Switzerland. It indicates how we require the support of your trust in recording and reporting treatments of these visitors, in order to improve the financial position of the NHS, and align processes with other EEA member states.

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for the UK to reclaim monies from other European Member States for treatment of their overseas visitors and we need your help in progressing this.

You may already be aware that, if hospitals in the UK collect the details of overseas visitors European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) or S2 forms (these forms are used when an overseas patient is being referred to the UK for specific treatment), then the UK can use those details to re-claim costs back from other member states.

Hospitals should report these details via a dedicated and secure ‘web portal’, which can be easily accessed over your organisation’s internet system via www.ovt.dh.nhs.uk/

Since the portal was launched in October 2009 the total amount reported has been approximately £10.5m for referral treatments and £3.3m for visitor treatments.

With your help and co-operation we could maximise income generation even further. Without this information, the UK cannot claim reimbursement from other European Member States, and treatment will have effectively been provided by the UK taxpayer for free.

How you can help

If your organisation is not already signed up I would be grateful if you could provide us with contact details of an appointed member of staff within your trust who is responsible for collecting this sort of information (ideally this would be NHS Overseas visitor managers). We can then ensure that they are registered to report treatments, EHIC details and costs in order that these can be reclaimed.

Please send details to: oht.overseasvisitorsteam@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Where to get further information

If you would like any further information about the project, it can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Entitlementsandcharges/OverseasVisitors/DH_106825

Or alternatively give us a call on: 0191 218 1999 (select option 3 from the automated menu).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Ferguson".

Valerie Ferguson
Head of Overseas Healthcare