

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Dear Colleague

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (CHARGES TO OVERSEAS VISITORS) (SCOTLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2014 (SSI 2014/70): EXEMPTION FROM CHARGES FOR ALL HIV TREATMENT

Purpose

1. To advise NHSScotland of the above amendments to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 which came into force on 1st May 2014. **The amendments have implications for both primary and secondary NHS healthcare providers.**

Exempting for overseas visitors from charges for all HIV treatment

2. In 2012 the UK Government took the decision, on the strength of the House of Lords Report - *No Vaccine, No Cure: HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom*, that it would amend the English NHS Charges to Overseas Visitors Regulations to exempt overseas visitors, including asylum seekers, from charges for all HIV treatment. Previously only testing and counselling was provided at no cost to overseas visitors.

3. In Scotland, asylum seekers are already exempt from all charges for NHS treatment, regardless of the status of their application for asylum. There may however be a small cohort of other patients to whom charges could apply. In 2012 it was agreed by Scottish Ministers that all overseas visitors should be exempt from charges for HIV treatment in the interest of public health, and that this should be put on a legal footing when an appropriate opportunity arose.

CEL 16 (2014)

August 2014

Addresses

For action

NHS Board Chief Executives

For information

NHS Executive Leads
Medical / Clinical Directors
Nursing Directors
Overseas Visitors Managers
Primary Care Administrators
Medical Practitioners
General Dental Practitioners
Optometrists
Community Pharmacists
NHS inform / NHS24

Enquiries to:

Felicity Sung
3ER St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244-3817

E-mail:

felicity.sung@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

General enquiries about overseas visitors access to NHS healthcare:


NHS Inform: 0800 22 44 88.

4. Amendments to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 in advance of The XX Commonwealth Games (as outlined in CEL 08 (2014)) presented an opportunity to amend the law in respect of this. Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of the Regulations have therefore been amended to exempt all HIV treatment from charges from 1st May 2014.

Action for Chief Executives

5. **Board Chief Executives are asked to ensure that this letter is brought to the attention of all secondary healthcare providers and support staff, and to all general practitioners; dental practitioners, optometrists; community pharmacists and other providers of family health services.**

6. **General enquiries about overseas visitors wishing to access NHS healthcare should continue to be directed to NHS Inform Tel 0800 22 44 88.**



Paul Gray
Director General Health and Social Care
& Chief Executive of NHSScotland