

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7180

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

25 January 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to charges to overseas visitors and migrants.

You asked:

I write to request information regarding decisions made under the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended, in your Trust. I seek to ascertain your Trust's application of the UK Government's current guidance which states:

Overseas visitors to England, including anyone living in the UK without permission, will not be charged for:

- testing for COVID-19 (even if the test shows they do not have COVID-19)*
- treatment for COVID-19, including for a related problem called multisystem inflammatory syndrome that affects some children*
- vaccination against COVID-19*

No immigration checks are needed for overseas visitors if they are only tested, treated or vaccinated for COVID-19.

Please can you tell me:

1) Between Feb 2020 and December 2021, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants (e.g. those usually subject to cost recovery provisions)?

If YES:

- (a) How many of these were treated for COVID-19?*
- (b) How many of these patients did your Trust exempted for charges related to their treatment under the "Guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations (amended Feb 2020)"?*
- (c) If available, please provide nationalities (individual or coded by continent), ages and gender of these patients.*

If NO:

(d) Prior to Feb 2020, did your Trust treat any overseas visitors or migrants and recover costs? If so, can you provide the cost recovery information for the preceding 5 years.

If YES or NO:

2) What, if any, training has been given in your trust to those engaged in cost recovery about the application of new provision around COVID-19 and the implementation of the amendments to the guidance on charging? If this training or information is available in textual formats (e.g. PDF/JPG/PPT or the like), please can you attach it to your response.

Trust response:

COVID-19 is a risk to the public health so is therefore exempt from all charges at the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

1) Not known

(a) No patients with COVID-19 were charged- we are unable to separate overseas visitors with residents who we treated with COVID-19

(b) All patients who were treated for COVID-19 were exempt.

(c) We are unable to separate overseas visitors with residents who we treated with COVID-19 without the checking of individual patient records. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

If NO:

(d)

Year	Total	Balance outstanding
2014/15	139688.53	0.00
2015/16	550440.45	45255.58
2016/17	322233.36	77305.23
2017/18	377990.28	69674.18
2018/19	297262.78	35527.74
2019/20	418664.19	145424.43
2020/21	273806.26	137644.46
2021/22	273292.54	186374.32

2) We have regular MS Team meetings (quarterly) with NHSI & DOH with any new rules and regulation changes that need to be applied. The guidance is also updated and sent to us regularly.