



IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE - FACTSHEET

1. The UK government is introducing an immigration health surcharge on 6 April 2015. The health surcharge will be paid by non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who apply to come to the UK to work, study or join family for a period of more than 6 months. It will also be paid by non-EEA nationals who are already in the UK and apply to extend their stay after 6 April 2015. There are some exempt groups who fall within the above categories but do not need to pay the surcharge.
2. The surcharge is:
 - £150 per year for students.
 - £200 per year for all other temporary visa and immigration applications made overseas and in the UK. Dependents will generally pay the same amount as the main applicant.
3. Those who have paid the surcharge or are exempt will be able to access the National Health Service (NHS) in the same way as a permanent UK resident. Payment may be required for some services such as dental treatment and eye tests.
4. When you make your immigration application you will be asked some questions to see if you need to pay the health surcharge or if you're exempt. You must pay the health surcharge before you finish your immigration application. If the surcharge is required, but not paid, the application will be refused or treated as invalid and rejected. If an immigration application is unsuccessful the surcharge will be refunded.
5. T2 inter-company transfers, Australian and New Zealand nationals must still complete the process through the surcharge web site. They will be informed the payment is nil but receive a unique surcharge reference number. This number is needed for their immigration application to confirm their exemption from the surcharge.
6. The surcharge payable will cover the entire period of permission to stay in the UK. For example, a person coming to the UK as a sponsored skilled migrant (Tier 2) will be required to pay the charge in full and upfront for the three year period.
7. Anyone coming to the UK on a visitor visa, for example as a tourist, or as an EEA national, does not need to pay the surcharge. However they will remain directly chargeable for hospital treatment.
8. Customer guidance will be available on www.gov.uk/visas-immigration from 6 April.

Related changes for those who are **not** required to pay the surcharge

- Those who are directly chargeable for their NHS care (for example visitors) and fail to pay and incur debts of £1000 or more, will normally be refused permission to re-enter or remain in the UK until that debt is paid.
- The UK Department of Health is also strengthening the existing arrangements for identifying and invoicing chargeable overseas visitors. Regulation changes will mean that from April 2015, non EEA visitors who use the NHS will be charged 150% of the cost of any medical treatment they receive. It is therefore recommended that this group possesses adequate travel and health insurance.