

Barriers and Bridges to accessing Healthcare for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Wednesday 11 September 6pm – 7.30pm

The Millside Centre, 131 Grattan Road, Bradford BD1 2HS

Agenda

- 6.00pm Welcome and Icebreaker - Avril Barker and Roger Cowell
- 6.10pm Presentation – Avril and Roger with support from Mathew Sidebottom and Mary Brandon
- 6.40pm Questions and discussion - share solutions/ ideas
- 7.00pm Refreshments and networking

BARRIERS

- Language
- Lack of knowledge
- Misinformation
- Cultural differences
- Financial means
- Trust
- Fear



BRIDGES

- Improving awareness
 - Campaigning
- Reporting of incidents
 - Sharing knowledge
- Access to Interpreters
 - HC2 Certificate

International human rights

“THE RIGHT TO HEALTH APPLIES TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATIONS STATUS. IT MEANS THAT EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, WHICH HELPS THEM TO LIVE THEIR LIFE IN DIGNITY”

The human right to health is contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), a United Nations human rights treaty which the UK has signed and ratified.



World Health
Organization

HEALTH
is a HUMAN
RIGHT

Who is entitled to what?

REFUGEES

Entitled to FREE healthcare at all levels of care,
includes primary and secondary care

Who is entitled to what?

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Entitled to FREE healthcare at all levels of care whilst application for asylum is still being considered or any appeal is pending

Who is entitled to what?

REFUSED ASYLUM SEEKERS

Healthcare is chargeable however charges do not apply to those receiving Home Office Section 4 support or those supported by the Local Authority under the Care Act 2014 but regardless of status, **all immediately necessary and urgent treatment must be provided**

- There are other exceptions

Who is entitled to what - in summary

REFUGEES

- Entitled to FREE healthcare at all levels of care

ASYLUM SEEKERS

- Entitled to FREE healthcare at all levels of care whilst application for asylum is still being considered or any appeal is pending

REFUSED ASYLUM SEEKERS

- Healthcare is chargeable however charges do not apply to those receiving Home Office Section 4 support or those supported by the Local Authority under the Care Act 2014 but regardless of status, **all immediately necessary and urgent treatment must be provided (i.e. maternity care)**

Refused Asylum Seekers

The situation for refused asylum seekers is more complicated

Note: refused asylum seekers' entitlement to NHS care can change during the course of treatment. Patients who become chargeable during a specific course of treatment are able to complete the course free of charge.

NHS Charging Regulations

The NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors)(Amendment) Regulations 2017

These regulations:




- Extend charging into community healthcare services including community midwifery, community mental health services, termination of pregnancy services, district nursing, support groups, advocacy services, drug and alcohol services, and specialist services for homeless people and asylum seekers.
- Introduce obligatory up-front charging unless treatment is deemed urgent or immediately necessary.

GP/Doctor and Accident &
Emergency (A&E) services
remain
FREE TO ALL

Services free for all:

- GP services
- A&E, including walk-in centres, minor injuries units or urgent care centres (up until the point when patient admitted)
- family planning services (does not include termination of pregnancy)
- diagnosis and treatment of specified infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections (including TB and HIV)
- palliative care services provided by a registered palliative care charity or a community interest company
- services that are provided as part of the NHS111 telephone advice line
- treatment required for a physical or mental condition caused by: torture; FGM; domestic violence; or sexual violence.

Important notes

- Charges do not apply to those who have paid the health surcharge and to those with an European Health Insurance (EHIC) card or equivalent. 
- When someone is granted refugee status, any charges still held against them must be dropped and if any charges have been paid, they should be paid back to the person. 
- Data Sharing with the Home Office – notified of any unpaid bills over £500 after 2 months and this may affect future immigration applications. 

***“An individual does not need identification,
proof of address
or proof of immigration status
to register with a doctor”***

Access to healthcare: a guide for organisations working with people seeking asylum.
Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/access-healthcare-guide-organisations-working-people-seeking-asylum>

Registering with a GP

Everyone can register with a GP without the need to prove their identity or address but showing one of these documents can help avoid delays and misunderstandings:



- HC2 certificate
- an Application Registration Card (ARC)
- or documents from the Home Office showing that the individual has applied for asylum.

HC2 Certificate

People seeking asylum should be given an HC2 certificate when they are granted support from the Home Office.

The HC2 certificate shows that they are entitled to free prescription medication, dental care, eye tests and travel costs for treatment.

**REMEMBER TO RENEW
EVERY 6 MONTHS**

HC2 Certificate for full help with health costs

DATE INCL

You will need to quote this number if you have to get in touch with us

VALID FROM

VALID UNTIL

FOR

ABOUT THIS CERTIFICATE

Using the information you gave us in your HC1 claim for help with health costs, we have worked out that you, and your partner if you have one, are entitled to this certificate for the following:

- free NHS prescriptions
- free NHS dental treatment
- free NHS sight tests
- the full value of a voucher towards the cost of glasses and contact lenses
- free NHS wigs and fabric substitutes
- refund of necessary costs of travel to receive NHS treatment under the care of a consultant (please read the notes on leaflet before you travel)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

- always quote your current certificate number and the date by the 'valid from' box above
- if you have any queries about your certificate between 8:00 and 5:00 on four weekdays (open Monday to Friday) please email or write to us at: NHS Business Services Authority, Help With Health Costs, South Quay Towers, Alameda upon Tyne, NE2 1DB.
- if you are not satisfied with the handling of your claim, please write to us at the above address and mark the envelope "Complaint".

NOTE

We can only give information about your claim to another person with your permission.

HOW TO RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATE

Fill in another HC1 form - you can get one from a Job Centre Plus office, NHS Hospital or by phoning our customer enquiry line on 0645 850 1166. Some dentists, opticians or doctors/surgeons also have them.

Send it to us about 4 weeks before this certificate runs out. Check the 'valid until' box at the top of this certificate to see when it runs out.

If you apply for and receive a new certificate before this one runs out, you can use whichever one gives you most help. You don't have to use the new one straight away.

CARE

Keep this certificate in a safe place and take it with you when you need any of the things listed above.

Language support



A professional interpreter should be provided if language is a barrier

Friends, family and children, are not appropriate interpreters

Local support



Bevan Healthcare
Health - Hope - Humanity

BEVAN HEALTHCARE

Bevan House, Bradford
Phone: 01274 322400

York Street, Leeds
Phone: 0113 295 4840

Wellbeing Centre, Bradford
Phone: 01274 905323

<https://bevanhealthcare.co.uk/>

Local support



BRITISH RED CROSS DROP-IN

- Every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm
- Millside Centre, 131 Grattan Road, Bradford, BD1 2HS
- Contact: Samuel Baka on SBaka@redcross.org.uk

Local support



SVP's IMMIGRATION ADVICE DROP-IN

- St Vincent's, Allenby House, Rees Way, Bradford, BD3 0DZ
- Contact: bradfordsouthadvice@svphelpinglocally.org.uk
or 01274 513039

Advice lines on charging for healthcare

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD



☎ 0808 164 7686

Mon to Fri 10am to 12noon

MATERNITY ACTION



☎ 0808 800 0041

Thursdays 10am-12noon

Campaigning against The Hostile Environment

<https://patientsnotpassports.co.uk/>



A toolkit designed to support you in advocating for people facing charges for NHS care, and in taking action to end immigration checks and upfront charging in the NHS:

- Support someone being charged for care
- Learn about charging and the "Hostile Environment"
- Campaign to end charging in your local area

Bradford City of Sanctuary Contact:



Coordinator: Sarli Nana

info@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org

Phone: 07378 304 724