

## ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTER WITH A GP PRACTICE A Patient Information Poster

### IMPORTANT NOTE

All patients, regardless of residency status, are entitled to free emergency treatment.

The following information gives general guidance only and should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of law.

### ENTITLEMENT TO REGISTER WITH A GP PRACTICE

#### Full entitlement (permanent resident)

##### 1) UK RESIDENT – lives for most of the year within the Practice catchment area

Evidence of identity:	Good photo ID (passport, driving licence, official identity card) Birth certificate, marriage certificate
Evidence of Status (patient from overseas):	Visa/residence permit/work permit The visa or permit must be for more than six months; anything less is classified as visit status, and therefore there is not entitlement. Multi-visit visas are valid for a number of years; however, each visit to the UK must be for less than six months, and therefore there is not entitlement.
Evidence of address:	Tenancy agreement, council tax bill, paid utility bill, wage slip, etc

##### 2) STUDENT FROM OVERSEAS – patient is attending a full-time course of study

Evidence of identity:	Good photo ID (passport, driving licence, student identity card) Birth certificate, marriage certificate
Evidence of status:	Letter from educational establishment, student visa
Evidence of address:	Tenancy agreement, council tax bill, paid utility bill, wage slip, etc

##### 3) ASYLUM SEEKER – patient has formally applied for asylum

Evidence of identity/status	Immigration & Nationality Directorate (IND) Application Registration Card, relevant Home Office documentation, etc
Evidence of address:	Tenancy agreement, council tax bill, paid utility bill etc

#### Partial entitlement (visitor)

##### 1) EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA) RESIDENT – entitled to 'any necessary care'

Evidence of identity/status:	Passport, official identity card
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#### EEA Countries

Austria	Lithuania
Belgium	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Malta
Cyprus	Netherlands
Czech Republic	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Republic of Ireland
France	Romania
Germany	Slovakia
Greece	Slovenia
Hungary	Spain
Iceland	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland
Latvia	(special arrangement)
Liechtenstein	United Kingdom

An accompanying patient  
 information leaflet is also  
 available

#### Information

**UK residents** are those residing or intend to reside in the country for a 'legal and settled' purpose, in plain terms – entitled to be in the country and they live for most of the year within the Practice's catchment area.

**Students from overseas** are entitled, if the course is full time (15 day-time hours or more week) and of at least six months duration – or if less than six months, substantially funded by the UK government i.e. university course).

Students from overseas remain entitled for the duration of their visa. Beyond the date of expiry of this visa, further proof of eligibility to remain in the country will need to be provided.

**Asylum seekers** are entitled to free NHS Primary Care services, for the entire term of the application process, including any appeals. Any person who has achieved refugee status is also entitled.

**EEA residents** are entitled to 'any necessary care'. This includes necessary treatment for pre-existing conditions, as well as those arising after arrival in the country. It will not include provision of treatment past the date of the end of the visit, or elective care.

For the purposes of this guidance, visitors from elsewhere in the United Kingdom can be included within this category.

**Entitlement is on the basis of residency; regardless of any previous National Insurance or tax contributions, and irrespective of whether the patient is a UK passport holder.**

**UK citizens who now live abroad for most of the year are not entitled (but may have some entitlement depending on where they now live – e.g. EEA Residents).** Anyone leaving the UK with the intention of living abroad should come off the GP's list after three months.

**Dependents of legitimately registered patients are also entitled; as long as they are the spouse (or civil partner), or a child, and live together at that address.**

#### Contact Information

**Overseas Liaison Officer, QEII Hospital NHS Trust:** 01707 365433      **Overseas Liaison Officer, Watford General Hospital:** 01923 217874  
**Overseas Liaison Officer, Luton & Dunstable Hospital:** 01582 718012      **Overseas Liaison Officer, Bedford Hospital:** 01234 792109  
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