

The States of Jersey Department for Health & Social Services

Residents and Non-residents Charging Policy

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INTRODUCTION

This updated interim policy supersedes the policy introduced in January 2011 and all previous policies relating to the provision of treatment and care to Jersey residents, non-residents and overseas visitors.

This policy applies to all services provided by the Health and Social Services Department. It does not apply to treatment or care provided by General Practitioners, other private healthcare providers, nor by other States Departments (including Social Security).

This policy does not define or list chargeable services where the charge is applicable to all service users, including Jersey residents eligible for free health care.

The Department will not be responsible for the provision or funding of care and/or treatments and/or drugs or equipment which fall outside its policies.

This policy may be subject to change at any time. Eligibility for services will be assessed under the policy in force at the time that treatment and/or care is provided.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The policy sets out who is eligible for access to free¹ services from the Health and Social Services Department.

Its primary purpose is to deter people travelling to Jersey with the intent of accessing free¹ health care and treatment and to ensure that free¹ access to the Department's services is an appropriate, fair and reasonable use of States funds

It takes account of external agreements – including Reciprocal Health Agreements in place between Jersey and other countries – and provides for appropriate exemptions to charges.

This policy has been developed with a view to ensuring the best interests of Jersey residents and taxpayers are taken into account, placing significant emphasis on the expectation that those receiving free¹ care and treatment are making an ongoing social and/or economic contribution to the Island.

It is the responsibility of an individual to check with the Health and Social Services Department to ensure they have the accurate information in assessing their eligibility – either as a resident or visitor – for access to free health care and treatment.

¹ All services provided by the Health and Social Services Department are free to persons who meet the conditions outlined within this policy <u>unless</u> the treatment or service is chargeable to all eligible Jersey residents.

THE POLICY

1. EMERGENCY HOSPITAL TREATMENT

The Health and Social Service Department (the Department) will provide **emergency** hospital treatment free¹ of charge to anyone who needs it.

For visitors not covered by an existing Reciprocal Health Agreement (RHA) and nonresidents² this free¹ treatment is <u>limited</u> to emergency acute care provided in the Emergency Department, or as an acute admission to the Emergency Admission Unit/Intensive Care Unit or Cardiac Care Unit at the General Hospital for the first 24 hours.

It does not include:

- any treatment or services provided elsewhere in the hospital or in the community
- any treatment or accommodation provided as part of an onward treatment and/or care package after the first 24 hours
- repatriation following emergency treatment, unless the transfer is considered part of the necessary emergency acute care response

Further urgent care for visitors covered by a current RHA is restricted to the provisions made within the individual agreement.

2. NON-EMERGENCY HOSPITAL TREATMENT

The Department will provide hospital based treatments and services free¹ of charge to anyone who, at the time of treatment:

- is listed in Appendix 1 AND
- is ordinarily resident³ in Jersey and has been for the whole <u>6 month consecutive</u> period immediately prior to seeking treatment in Jersey **AND**
- is in possession of a valid health card⁴ **AND**
- can provide evidence⁵ that they have been in paid regular employment in Jersey, or in receipt of a retirement pension that is subject to assessment by the Jersey Tax Office, throughout that 6 consecutive month period, or that they have been paying income tax in Jersey throughout that consecutive six month period

OR

- is ordinarily resident² in Jersey AND
- currently has "Licensed"⁶ status

OR

- is ordinarily resident³ in Jersey **AND**
- currently has Permanently Entitled⁷ status AND

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ See Section 8 (Page 10) for Definition of a Visitor for the purposes of eligibility for cover under an existing reciprocal health agreement

³ See Appendix 1 for description of ordinary residents potentially eligible for free treatment or care

⁴ Health cards are available from the Social Security Department. They entitle the holder to a discount on the fees charged by GPs. A Health Card <u>alone</u> does not entitle you to free healthcare services provided by Health and Social Services

⁵ See Appendix 5 for information relating to evidence of eligibility

⁶ "Licensed" category status is only granted in the case of employees who are deemed to be essential to the Island; The Population Office administers the Laws that relate to Licensed" employment and is the first point of contact in relation to queries about "Licensed"" status.

• is employed in Jersey

OR

- is ordinarily resident³ in Jersey **AND**
- currently has Permanently Entitled⁷ status **AND**
- has being paying States of Jersey income tax throughout any period of absence from the Island amounting to a minimum total of 30 years⁸

OR

- is listed in Appendix 1 AND
- is ordinarily resident³ in Jersey and has been for the whole <u>12 month consecutive</u> period immediately prior to seeking treatment in Jersey **AND**
- is in possession of a valid health card⁴

If a person is qualified for eligibility for free¹ treatment, their eligibility is extended to their **ordinarily resident**³ spouse providing the spouse:

- ordinarily lives with the person who is eligible for free¹ health care **AND**
- is to remain living in Jersey (evidence of intent to remain resident in Jersey is required) AND
- does not ordinarily live elsewhere

If a person is qualified for eligibility for free¹ treatment, their eligibility is extended to their **ordinarily resident**³ dependent children providing the dependent children:

- ordinarily live with the person who is eligible for free¹ health care **AND**
- are to remain living in Jersey (evidence of intent to remain resident in Jersey is required) **AND**
- do not ordinarily live elsewhere

Eligibility does not extend – under any classification or category – to other family members, for example parents, siblings, cousins etc. or friends, <u>even</u> where the family member is considered a 'dependent'.

All members of extended family and/or friends must qualify as ordinarily resident³ in their own right to qualify for access to free¹ health services.

Evidence of residency in all cases is required with the exception of the exemptions listed in Appendix 3.

3. RECIPROCAL HEALTH AGREEMENTS

Emergency and urgent medical care and treatment is provided to visitor to Jersey who qualifies under the terms of a Reciprocal Health Agreement.

Free¹ health care for visitors under this category is restricted to the limitations included in the agreement and does not qualify a visitor to access all free health services beyond this care.

⁷ Permanently Entitled status refers to a person who is Entitled **and** who meets further conditions under the Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012 and regulations. Proof of status can be obtained from the Social Security Department

⁸ Continually paying income tax to the States of Jersey either on investments, pensions, personal income or property rental throughout any period of absence from the island

A Reciprocal Health Agreement covers visitors for up to 3 months after arrival in Jersey. Anyone who remains in the island beyond that time will be classified as a non-qualified resident, and costs for any health care and treatment incurred until such time as they qualify under current ordinarily resident rules.

Responsibility for ensuring an appropriate Reciprocal Health Agreement is in place before travelling to Jersey as a visitor rests with the individual.

Where no RHA exists, or an individual remains in Jersey beyond the 3 month statutory limitation on any RHA, it is the responsibility of that person to ensure they have sufficient and appropriate medical insurance, or other arrangements, to cover the costs of any health treatment that may be needed.

A list of Countries with which an existing Reciprocal Health Agreement is in place is shown at Appendix 3

4. LONG-TERM NON-ACUTE CARE

From July 1st 2014, Long Term Care in Jersey is governed by the Long-Term Care (Health and Social Services Charges) (Jersey) Law 201- which regulates:

Any person <u>aged 18 and over</u>, assessed as requiring long-term care and in receipt of longterm care services provided or procured by the Department, will be charged under the Long-Term Care (Health and Social Services Charges) (Jersey) Law 201-.

Under the Law, all adults are able to request assistance with long-term care costs through the Long-Term Care Scheme, which administered by the Social Security Department.*

A person receiving long-term non-acute care under specific areas of the Mental Health Law will not be charged by the Department.

The Health and Social Services Department may provide long-term care free of charge to anyone who is <u>under</u> 18 providing the child:

- Has been ordinarily resident in Jersey for a minimum period of 5 years immediately prior to requiring treatment AND
- Is in possession of a valid health card

OR

- is ordinarily resident in Jersey AND
- whose parent or legal guardian is current in "Licensed Employment"

OR

- Is entitled to free non-emergency hospital treatment (as outlined in section 2) AND
- Has previously lived in Jersey for a consecutive period of at least 10 years

OR

- is ordinarily resident in Jersey AND
- whose parent or legal guardian currently has Permanently Entitled status AND
- whose parent or legal guardian is employed in Jersey

Full details of the Long Term Care Scheme, including benefits available, can be found at <u>www.gov.je/Benefits/LongTermCare</u> or by emailing <u>longtermcare@gov.je</u> or telephone (01534) 445505.

Evidence of residency is required. Exemptions are listed in Appendix 3.

The eligibility rule does not apply to costs associated with medication/treatment of long term conditions which fall outside of the Long-Term Acute Care criteria. Such conditions fall under the 6 month/12 month eligibility criteria (see Sections 1-2 above)

5. CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

Pregnant women will only be eligible for free¹ maternity, birth and postnatal care and treatment if they are eligible for free¹ non-emergency hospital treatment (as outlined in Section 2)

Once the baby is born in Jersey it will be eligible for free¹ care and treatment, regardless of whether the parents are, or are not, eligible for free¹ care and treatment, providing:

- (a) that the mother can provide evidence to demonstrate that neither she, nor her unborn baby, had any previously-diagnosed condition that may result in the baby requiring specialist care **AND**
- (b) that baby and parent(s) are to remain living and working in Jersey. Evidence of the intent to remain in Jersey is required

Once a child has left the island, normal qualification requirements for access to free¹heath care (as outlined in Sections 1-3 above) will apply.

Parents who are not eligible for free¹ non-emergency hospital treatment (as outlined in Section 2), and who cannot provide evidence of their intention to remain living and working in Jersey, will be liable for all costs incurred for ante-natal and care for their baby under the 6/12 month rules.

6. PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT

Anyone who is not eligible for free¹ services, as outlined in Section 1 to 4 above, may be treated, but will be required to pay for all treatment and related health services expenses, up until the point at which they qualify as ordinarily resident³

This includes:

- anyone who is unable, due to the circumstances of their condition, to consent at the appropriate time to the treatment and the associated charges and/or
- where a family member consents to treatment, and the associated charges on a patient's behalf, in the event that the patient is unable to consent

The Health and Social Services Department has a reciprocal Data Sharing Agreement with the Social Security Department and will, in some circumstances, seek to check and share information about a patient to establish their right – or otherwise – to free¹ health care as outlined in Section 2 to 4 above.

However, it remains the responsibility of the patient, or their parent/guardian, to provide the necessary evidence to prove eligibility for free¹ healthcare, in the event of any dispute over eligibility.

7. TRAVEL COSTS

The Department will pay for flights and other travel costs for those patients eligible for free healthcare, in accordance with the Department's travel policy, and only for patients eligible for free¹ hospital treatment.

The Department will not pay for any other patient transport (including repatriation) and will recharge the cost of any travel booked to the patient. Neither will the Department pay for any relative(s) and/or friend(s) seeking to accompany a patient when being transferred, except in certain exceptional circumstances – e.g. where the patient is a child.

Details are outlined in the Health and Social Services Travel Policy⁹.

8. DISPUTED CHARGES AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Every patient has a right to appeal, in the event they dispute any charge(s) levied upon them.

The Resident and Non-Resident Charging Policy (RNRCP) allows for hospital charges to be waived in exceptional circumstances, and it is the role of the Charges Appeals Panel (The Panel) to decide whether or not an individual case warrants the granting of a special exemption to charges.

The Charges Appeal Panel is made up of:

- the Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services (Chair, with Decision-making rights)
- the Director of Finance, or his/her nominated representative
- the Medical Officer of Health, or his/her nominated representative
- The Deputy Director of Commissioning (or nominated representative)

In some particularly complex cases, the Panel can call on other experts, including Consultants and other Clinicians, Corporate Directors, Departmental Officers and other Specialists to advise them.

The Decision, however, rests solely with the Chair of the Panel and charges can only be waived in exceptional circumstances

Appeal grounds that may be considered for exemption can include where a patient:-

- disputes the charges levied upon them under the terms of the RNRCP
- falls outside the terms of the RNRCP but is seeking exemption on the basis of exceptional personal, medical or mitigating circumstances
- claims eligibility under the terms of the RNRCP, but this claim is potentially contestable

⁹ Copies of the Travel Policy can be obtained from the Travel Office at the General Hospital (01534 442323), or downloaded at <u>www.gov.je/health</u>

 can argue that strict application of the RNRCP would not meet a test of fairness and reasonableness

The aim of the Panel is to make fair, transparent decisions which balance an individual patient's needs and circumstances against the need to ensure adherence to eligibility criteria, without which Jersey's tax payers and other patients are potentially disadvantaged.

It sets out:

- □ to ensure the Resident and Non-Resident Policy (RNRCP) and Reciprocal Health Agreements Policy (RHA) are implemented appropriately
- to prevent Health Tourism in the context of access to States-funded Health Services by non-qualified individuals
- to ensure fairness and reasonableness in the setting of charges for Health Care provision to non-qualified patients

Appeals must be submitted in writing¹⁰ within 30 days of the date of the contested invoice(s) and the Patient must write to:

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Charges Appeals Panel) C/O Patient Liaison Officer 4th Floor Peter Crill House Gloucester Street St Helier, Jersey, JE1 3QS

Email: <u>a.aubert@health.gov.je</u>

When writing, the patient must:

- provide full patient details including:
 - o residential/visitor status
 - the date they took up residency in Jersey/arrived in Jersey (evidence of travel/residency if required)
 - o usual place of residency (if not Jersey)
 - o date of birth
- Clearly set out the grounds on which they are appealing the charge and why they believe an exemption to charges should be made. Financial hardship, alone, will not be accepted by the Charges Appeals Panel as sufficient grounds for exemption to charges.
- set out <u>all</u> pertinent facts for example: the date of admission and/or treatment received, details of any related pre-existing conditions/treatment that may be relevant to the appeal claim
- detail any special circumstances

¹⁰ An appeals submission form is available from the Income Manager, Health and Social Services, Peter Crill House, Gloucester Street, St Helier JE1 3QS, telephone: 01534440592, or can be downloaded at www.gov.je/health

• provide evidential material, including copies of documentation (e.g. marriage certificate, travel documents etc) that may support the grounds for appeal

The patient is responsible for providing all the necessary information, details and evidence to support their claim against charges. In considering an appeal, the Department may write to a patient requesting further information.

The Charges Appeals Panel (the Panel) will not, however, take responsibility for contacting third party agencies, insurance companies or employers to seek evidence or information to support an appellant's claim.

In the event the necessary evidence is not forthcoming, the Panel will make a decision based on the information it has received, and may be required to make assumptions about circumstances where evidence to prove otherwise is unavailable or unproven.

A representative may write on behalf of a patient. In this instant, the appeal submission <u>must</u> <u>also include</u>:

 a letter, signed and dated by the patient, authorising their nominated representative to correspond on their behalf, discuss the details of their case with the appropriate Health and Social Services Department representatives and, where necessary, to disclose personal information about them

<u>OR</u>

 a completed copy of the patient representative consent form which can be downloaded from www.gov.je/health

<u>OR</u>

• Power of Attorney

9. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATES BENEFITS

It is important to note that different States Departments will have individual criteria for assessing qualification for States Benefits, e.g. Social Security, Housing, Education etc. Qualification for one Department <u>does not</u> necessarily ensure or define eligibility for benefits available through a separate States Department.

It is the responsibility of an individual to check with the Health and Social Services Department to ensure they have the accurate information in assessing their eligibility – either as a resident or visitor - for access to free health care and treatment.

Advice sought or given by other departments or individuals may not be up to date or accurate and such advice <u>will not</u> be accepted as grounds for hospital charges to be waived or, as exceptional circumstances in support of an appeal.

Further information on eligibility and healthcare charges is available by contacting the Health & Social Services Finance Department on 01534 442257

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: People Potentially Eligible for Free¹ Health Care and Treatment

Access to free health services is limited to individuals who meet the definition of ordinarily resident³ **together with** the criteria outlined in Sections 2 to 4 of this Policy (see pages 3-7).

For the purposes of this policy the Department will regard nationals listed below as being able to qualify as ordinarily resident once the qualification criteria has been met.

1	 A British citizen or a national of another member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) or A Swiss national who is legitimately employed in Jersey. 					
	EEA members (as at January 2010)					
	Austria	Guernsey (and Alderney)	Netherlands			
	Belgium	Hungary	Norway			
	Bulgaria	Iceland	Poland			
	Cyprus	Ireland	Portugal			
	Czech Republic	Isle of Man	Romania			
	Denmark	Italy	Slovakia			
	Estonia	Latvia	Slovenia			
	Finland	Liechtenstein	Spain			
	France	Lithuania	Sweden			
	Germany	Luxembourg	United Kingdom			
	Greece	Malta				
2	A Commonwealth citizen, currently in employment in Jersey, who has permission from the Customs and Immigration Service to remain in Jersey					
3	A person, currently	in employment in Jersey under a	a work permit issued by the			
	Customs and Immigration Service					
4	A person who mainta she resides.	ains his or her principle accommoda	ation in Jersey, in which he or			

APPENDIX 2: Former Jersey Residents returning to live in Jersey

Former Jersey residents, who are returning to live permanently in Jersey, having lived or worked elsewhere for **5 years or more**, **will not be eligible for** free¹ care or treatment unless they qualify under Sections 1 to 4 above, or fall within the exemptions listed in Appendix 3.

Permanently Entitled Jersey residents, returning to live and work in Jersey, will be required to provide their eligibility to free¹ health care by providing proof of employment and residential status

Former Jersey residents, who are returning to Jersey to live after **less than 5 years away**, will only be eligible forfree¹ care or treatment – as outlined in Sections 1-4 - if they can provide evidence that they had previously lived in Jersey for 10 continuous years at some point prior to treatment.

All former Jersey residents, requested by the Department to prove their eligibility to free¹ health care in accordance with this policy, will need to provide evidence they intend to permanently reside in Jersey, as opposed to visiting Jersey, even if that visit is for an extended period of time, **AND** proof of their residential status in accordance with the Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012 and regulations.

Proof of residential status can be obtained from the Social Security Department.

Patients entitled to, or in receipt of, Income Support

It is important to note that entitlement to, or receipt of Income Support from the Social Security, **<u>does not</u>** indicate an automatic eligibility for access to free treatment and/or care through the Health and Social Services Department.

While Social Security will issue a Health Card to a person who has accumulated a total of six month residency in Jersey over any period of time, eligibility for free¹ health services requires that a person is ordinarily resident³ in Jersey for a minimum period of six consecutive months immediately prior to requiring treatment.

It is the **responsibility of an individual to check** with the Health and Social Services Department to ensure they have the **accurate information** in assessing their qualification – either as a resident or visitor - for access to free health care and treatment.

Further information on eligibility and healthcare charges is available by contacting the Health & Social Services Finance Department on 01534 442257

APPENDIX 3: Countries with which Jersey has a Reciprocal Health Agreement (RHA) for Visitors to Jersey

Emergency and urgent medical care and treatment is provided to anyone who qualifies under the terms of a Reciprocal Health Agreement.

Free¹ health care for visitors under this category is restricted to the limitations included in any individual agreement* for up to 3 months after arrival in Jersey. It is important to note that the limitations under individual RHAs are specific to the country.

*Details of current RHAs can be found on the Social Security website

1.	Australia
2.	Austria
3.	Barbados
4.	France
5.	Guernsey and Alderney
6.	Iceland
7.	Isle of Man
8.	New Zealand
9.	Norway
10.	Portugal
11.	Sweden
12.	UK (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Island)

Definition of a Visitor for RHA Purposes

The definition of a Visitor, for the purposes of eligibility to receive free health care and/or treatment under a Reciprocal Health Agreement, may include a person who is visiting Jersey for leisure or business purposes.

- 1. It does **not include** any person who has registered with Social Security Department and has a Jersey Social Security number. It is deemed that registering with the Department shows 'intent to reside in Jersey" as opposed to just "visiting", even if that intent to reside may be on a short term basis
- It does <u>not include</u> any person who was employed in Jersey and paid by a Jersey employer (by definition, any such person should, in any event, be registered with the Social Security Department)

Any person who is employed in a country with which Jersey has a reciprocal health agreement, but is temporarily deployed in Jersey will be defined as a Visitor, providing their period of deployment has been <u>less than 3 months</u>. If their contract of services in Jersey is for more than 3 months, they will fall outside the RHA, regardless of whether they return to the UK or other RHA-designated country for weekend visits, holidays etc.

APPENDIX 4: Exemptions to Charges

The following individuals (their spouse and dependent children who are ordinarily resident³ with them) are automatically exempt from restrictions outlined in Section 2

- Members of the Consular Corps accredited to Jersey.
- A member of the UK armed forces who was, immediately prior to enlisting, ordinarily resident³ in Jersey.
- A member of the UK armed forces who sustained injury or ill health as a result of their active service, regardless of whether they had previously been resident in Jersey
- A member of another nations' Armed Forces or Emergency Service who is on official duty in Jersey at the time treatment is required (confirmation of their official capacity must be received from an appropriate Jersey Liaison Officer)
- A full time student at an institution (not in Jersey) who was, immediately prior to starting at that institution, ordinarily resident³ in Jersey
- A prisoner detained in prison or by the Customs and Immigration Service in Jersey
- Any individual living and working abroad (not including in the UK) in the following capacities who was ordinarily resident³ in Jersey immediately prior to taking up their work:
- A member of diplomatic staff working in an embassy
- Staff working for the British Council or Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- A missionary (paid or unpaid) working for an organisation principally based in Jersey
- An aid worker (paid or unpaid) working for a recognised charitable organisation

The following individuals will also be eligible for free health care and treatment:

- Those in need of immediate compulsory psychiatric treatment under the Mental Health (Jersey) Law 1969
- Those requiring treatment for certain conditions and contagious diseases¹¹

¹¹ The Health and Social Services Department applies NHS regulations on contagious diseases that would be eligible for free treatment and care. The list (as confirmed at the time of publication) is attached at Appendix 6

APPENDIX 5: Evidence of Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the patient to provide proof in order for the Department to establish a patient's eligibility for free¹ health care. Failure to provide evidence will result in charges being applied.

While all patients will be required to present a valid health card this, in itself, is not sufficient evidence that a patient has been ordinarily resident³ in Jersey for the required period and meets the conditions for eligibility for free¹ health care. For example, a valid health card demonstrates six cumulative month's residency in Jersey, but not necessarily the **6/12 consecutive months** immediately prior to seeking treatment that is required to meet the criteria for access to free¹ health care.

Evidence of eligibility must include proof of identity, verification of residency and, in some circumstances, proof of birth/marriage. This may include, but is not limited to, a combination of:

- Registration Card (for work and housing)
- passport or national identity card
- birth and marriage certificates
- pay slips
- employment contract/work permits
- tax returns and tax notices
- social security payments
- rental contracts
- utility bills and bank statements
- school attendance record

APPENDIX 6: Medical Exemptions

Sexually Transmitted Infections

With the exception of HIV, treatments for all sexually transmitted infections are exempt from charges

HIV testing and counselling will be provided free of charge. However, all subsequent clinical treatment, including the provision of drugs, is chargeable up until the point that an individual has been continuously ordinarily resident³ in Jersey for six consecutive months immediately prior to requiring treatment and/or medication.

Note: immediately necessary or urgent treatment for HIV will not be delayed while eligibility or entitlement is confirmed.

Diseases to which Public Health Enactments Apply

Acute encephalitis Acute poliomyelitis Amoebic dysentery Anthrax Bacillary Dysentery Diphtheria Leprosy Leptospirosis Malaria Measles Meningitis Meningococcal Septicaemia (without meningitis) Mumps Ophthalmia neonatorum Paratyphoid fever Rabies Rubella Scarlet fever Tetanus Tuberculosis Typhoid fever Viral haemorrhagic fever Viral hepatitis Whooping cough Yellow fever

Notifiable Diseases

Cholera Food poisoning Plague Relapsing fever Smallpox Typhus PART II

Food Poisoning and Food-Borne Infections

Salmonella infections Staphylococcal infections likely to cause food poisoning

Other Diseases

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Pandemic influenza (influenza caused by a new virus subtype that has an increased and sustained transmission during a global outbreak of influenza)