

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/175

Palliative Care

Information Requested:

Could you please send me the Welsh Overseas Visitors NHS Charges Policy as well as if you have any related information about Palliative Care in the possible NHS Charges?

I also wonder if you have any statistics of how many people with the NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds - That means due to a legal status or lack, not have access to welfare benefits, etc) immigration condition or irregular/undocumented migrants may have needed Palliative Care and were charged under this policy. Please provide for the last 5 years if held. I am more interested in people who did not have a legal status to reside in Britain, if possible.

I also wonder if you have any statistics on how many people considered irregular/undocumented migrants have been diagnosed with a terminal illness for the last five years. If you have any statistics, it would be great to know the age, nationality, gender and what illness.

Response details:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, please note the following extract from Welsh Government Hospital Guidance regarding overseas patients:

“Immediately necessary treatment – if the opinion of the clinicians treating the patient is that treatment is immediately necessary then it must not be delayed or withheld while the patient’s chargeable status is being established. There is no exemption from charges for “emergency” treatment (other than that given in an accident and emergency department - see para 6.7(a)) but trusts should always provide immediately necessary treatment whether or not the patient has been informed of, or agreed to pay, charges. Not to do so could be in breach of the Human Rights Act 1998.”

The extract has been taken from the below. You may find this useful:

[Hospital charges for overseas visitors: regulations | GOV.WALES](#)

<https://www.gov.wales/hospital-charges-overseas-visitors-implementing-eu-exit-amendments>.

In addition, the following supplement may also assist

[Overseas NHS visitors: implementing the charging regulations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)