

February 2012

*1. How many foreign nationals have been declined treatment after referral from their GP because they have been deemed ineligible for secondary care for the NHS in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 so far? *For the 2011/12 data please specify the period covered.*

You are requesting information regarding treatment of “foreign nationals” which is not a term recognised by the Trust. However, information regarding overseas visitors who have received treatment at the Trust is recorded.

We are not aware of any overseas patients referred by a General Practitioner having been deemed ineligible for secondary care.

2. Please provide details of the treatments foreign nationals were refused on the basis of them being deemed ineligible for secondary care after being referred by GPs NHS in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 so far?

Please see the response to 1 above.

3. How many foreign nationals have been treated at your hospitals after being referred by GPs in 2009/10), 2010/11 and 2011/12 so far? What organisation(s) reimburse you for this care (i.e. PCTs, GP practices)?

Year	Numbers
2009/10	68
2010/11	64
2011/12	190

Foreign nationals are either charged direct if liable, those exempt will be charged to the Host PCT, no GP's are charged directly for their referrals. The data shown above relates to all foreign nationals identified as being treated at Southend Hospital

If a valid permitted exemption is applicable having regard to the Overseas Visitor Hospital Charging Regulations or a reciprocal agreement is in place with the home country of a patient visiting the UK then the local Primary Care Trust is billed as patients are considered to be entitled to access NHS secondary care free of charge. Where EEA reciprocal agreements are in place, the details are reported to the Department of Health for a reclaim. Again having regard to the regulations some patients will be invoiced for their secondary care treatment directly.

1. What is the value of secondary care given to foreign nationals in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 (so far)? How much have you been reimbursed for this care to date, and how much remains outstanding?

As above the term foreign national is not one used by the Trust, but data related to the value of secondary care provided to overseas visitors is shown below.

Year	Charges for NHS Treatment	Remains Unpaid	Written Off
<i>2009/10</i>	£120,622	£3,394	£68,321
<i>2010/11</i>	£186,788	£64,278	£87,791
<i>2011/12</i>	£167,289	£138,190	£64,913

The amounts written off do not relate specifically to the financial year stated but against the overall balance outstanding, after all reasonable debt collection processes have been exhausted.

Information about 'Losses and Special Payments' is reported in the Trust Annual Reports which are published on our website www.southend.nhs.uk.