

EAST KENT HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**REPORT TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS****DATE: 26 JUNE 2015****SUBJECT: OVERSEAS VISITORS POLICY****REPORT FROM: INCOME AND CONTRACTING MANAGER****PURPOSE: Approval****CONTEXT / REVIEW HISTORY / STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Update Trust Policy on Overseas Visitor identification and charging.

SUMMARY:

Update Trust policies with regard to National Overseas visitor recognition and Charging regulations to include all current Department of Health Guidance. Review undertaken as previous policy had expired and guidance has changed. This policy now encompasses all the relevant DOH guidance on recharging for overseas visitors and will allow staff across the organisation to familiarise themselves with the correct procedures for identifying and notifying the Overseas Visitor's Advisor of overseas visitors who may need to pay for their treatment. Guidance is likely to change again in July when an updated policy will be resubmitted to the committee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board to Approve

NEXT STEPS:

Publication on Sharepoint, raise awareness through weekly newsletter

IMPACT ON TRUST'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Supports the Trusts financial sustainability

LINKS TO BOARD ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK:

Supports Trust financial sustainability

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

Regulations have changed, these need to be disseminated throughout the organisation to ensure compliance with DOH guidance and that overseas visitor's income is recorded and collected. Ensure that this is understood across the Trust.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There will potentially be a loss of income if chargeable overseas visitors are not identified, and this policy will enable Trust wide staff to assist the Overseas Visitors Advisor in her role.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY:

Legally we need to be identifying and recharging visitors from overseas that are not exempt from NHS charges. We are allowed to recover 25% of any income identified from an EEU patient and 150% of tariff on all non-EEU visitors. Department of Health's Guidance on implementing the overseas charging regulations 2015.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TAKEN ON ANY NOVEL OR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

N/A

ACTION REQUIRED:

- ~~(a) To make a decision~~
 - ~~(b) Discuss and agree recommendations.~~
 - (c) To approve.
 - ~~(d) To note~~
- (Delete as appropriate)*

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT TAKING ACTION:

The Trust current policy is out of date and therefore we will not be capturing all of the rechargeable overseas visitors thereby putting income at risk and being in breach of current legislation.