

**[EXAMPLE REQUEST FOR ADVICE FROM DOCTORS/DENTISTS]**

Dear Doctor.....

NAME OF PATIENT.....

Date of Birth...../...../..... Hospital Number.....

This patient is an overseas visitor as defined in the National Health Services (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011. Having interviewed the patient, we found him/her to be liable for charges as an overseas visitor.

Government advice to safeguard NHS resources is to obtain payment where possible before treatment is given. In this case, the patient has declared that he/she will not be able to pay prior to receipt of the treatment.

However, relevant NHS bodies<sup>1</sup> must also ensure that treatment which clinicians consider to be immediately necessary is provided to any patient, even if they have not paid in advance.

**Failure to do so may be unlawful under the Human Rights Act 1998.** Urgent treatment which clinicians do not consider immediately necessary, but which nevertheless cannot wait until the person can be reasonably expected to return home, should also be provided to any patient, even if deposits have not been secured.

The patient is likely to return home on or around        /        /20

Therefore, would you please tick one of the declarations below?

- Having made the appropriate diagnostic investigations, I intend to give treatment which is **immediately necessary** to save the patient's life/prevent a condition from becoming immediately life-threatening or needed promptly to prevent permanent serious damage occurring. All maternity treatment is considered immediately necessary.
- Having made the appropriate diagnostic investigations, I intend to give **urgent** treatment which is not immediately necessary to save the patient's life but cannot wait until the patient returns home. If the patient's ability to return changes I will reconsider my opinion.
- Having made the appropriate diagnostic investigations, I do not intend to provide treatment unless payment is made in advance, since the patient's need is **non-urgent** and it can wait until they return home. If the patient's ability to return changes I will reconsider my opinion.
- I must make further investigations before I can assess urgency.

Where treatment is given (or has been given already), the relevant NHS body is obliged to raise an invoice for the cost of such treatment, and to recover the cost of treatment where possible. Debts should be written off as losses where unrecoverable.

Date..... Signed.....  
(Doctor)

Date..... Signed..... (Overseas Visitors  
Manager)

<sup>1</sup> Relevant NHS bodies are NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts, primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and special health authorities.