

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Monday 4th November 2024. I am pleased to confirm the following.

For all the responses below, we have interpreted the definition of “foreign nationals” as those patients that are patients we would classify as “Overseas Visitor”.

The number of foreign national attendances at A&E services provided by your Trust.

As stated above, we have answered this question on the basis of overseas visitors attending A&E. Overseas visitors can attend A&E without any financial charge. In terms of overseas patients that attended A&E between April 2023 and March 2024 there were 178 attendances.

The number of places on waiting lists for elective procedures at your trust currently occupied by foreign nationals.

It is important to understand that patients are added to the elective waiting list when they are referred to a hospital by a GP through the e-Referral system. GP can only refer patients onwards to a hospital setting (referred to as secondary care) through the e-Referral system that are registered with the GP practice. Only patients that have valid residence in the UK can register with a GP practice. Given that overseas patients cannot be registered with a GP practice, it is unlikely that they would be referred for onward care via the e-Referral system. It is therefore unlikely that patients can be added to the elective waiting list for an elective procedure.

As highlighted above, overseas visitors can be seen in A&E and no financial charge can be made in respect to the treatment they have received. However, if the patient is admitted to the hospital for emergency treatment they can be charged for their inpatient treatment.

The number of treatment courses currently being provided by your trust to foreign nationals.

Unfortunately, the question with respect to treatment courses cannot be answered as hospitals do not count treatment courses. We have therefore attempted to answer this question on the basis of what we believe the question is trying to ask. The Trust does not have any overseas patients on their elective waiting list who are treated through this route. The Trust does see overseas patients in A&E and the volumes of patients seen has been answered above. In terms of overseas patients that are admitted as an emergency admission between April 2023 and March 2024 there were 75 admissions.

If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliff House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Any re-use of this information will be subject to the
'Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations' and best practice.