

18-1225 FOI Request: Maternity Overseas Patients

Thank you for your FOI request sent on 21st December 2018.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust holds information that falls within the definition in your request which is set out below:

Trust policies on charging overseas visitors for NHS services

1. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance, published or unpublished, concerning the application of NHS Overseas Visitors Regulations 2015 (as amended) and/or the application of the national guidance from the DOHSC as described above.

- a. **If so, please provide a copy of the same.**
- b. **If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.**

We do not have a specific policy for Maternity as all Overseas Visitors are included in the trusts Overseas Policy. Please find this attached.

Information specific to maternity services

2. Please provide information as to whether the Trust has issued or adopted any local policies, instructions or guidance to those providing maternity services within the Trust concerning the operation of Regulation 9 (f) (i) – (iv) of the NHS Overseas Visitors Charging Regulations, namely the exemption for “services provided for the treatment of a condition caused by (i) torture; (ii) female genital mutilation; (iii) domestic violence; or (iv) sexual violence, provided that the overseas visitor has not travelled to the United Kingdom for the purpose of seeking that treatment”.

- a. **If so, please provide a copy of the same.**
- b. **If not, please confirm that no such policies, instructions or guidance are held.**

A daily Outpatient, Inpatient and Maternity SQL sent every day to Overseas Officers to indicate any potential Overseas Maternity Patients. We have a (attached) Policy and a procedure in place for staff to follow. Our team always refer to guidelines under Adult Safeguarding in National Guidelines when applying any exemption clause under any of the circumstances listed. The Team also run regular refresher training for Wards and Departments.

3. We further request a copy of any standard pro forma used at the a woman’s first ante natal booking appointment with maternity services.

Under Section 43 of the Act, it is the view of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust that releasing this information would be a breach of commercial interest. This is because our pro formas are designed by the developers of our Maternity system and we are contractually bound to not release this information. Releasing this information could prejudice our abilities as a public authority to operate competitively within a commercial market.

Specifically, releasing such information would reveal to potential contractors the price breakdown that has been paid by the Trust and thereby reduce our ability in future to negotiate prices that offer the best value to the public purse. The Trust has considered the public interest test and given the potential burden on the public purse has assessed that the public interest in disclosing this information is not outweighed by the public interest in safeguarding the commercial interests of the Trust.

Leaflets and Posters available.

4. Within maternity services provided by the Trust, for the years 2016 - 2017 (separately) what was the percentage of women attending their booking appointments at:

A	10 weeks gestational age and over (total)	2016 = 62.9%	2017 = 60.2%
	And of those...		
B	10 weeks +1 day – 12 weeks +6 days	2016 = 43.3%	2017 = 41.6%
C	13-20 weeks	2016 = 9.2%	2017 = 9.3%
D	Over 20 weeks	2016 = 6.8%	2017 = 6.1%

5. For the same period what percentage of the above women at 4 (a) - (d) were subject to charges for NHS maternity services?

Of 102 patients interviewed:

- 17 found to be chargeable
- 2 bi – lateral agreements
- 8 self-funding
- 1 reciprocal
- 6 Health Surcharge applied.

6. For the same period what percentage of the women at 4 (a) were deemed to be a ‘high risk’ pregnancy in accordance with NICE guidelines?

2016 = 54.7%, 2017 = 56.3%