



Information Update: What are the implications for practices as a result of the contractual changes to identify overseas patients?

27 September 2017

As part of the changes to the GMS/PMS Contract for 2017/18 from 6th October 2017 there are changes to the way practices register some patients. The [BMA have produced guidance](#) which is reproduced below:

“These changes will be introduced from October 2017. They only apply to patients who are registering with your practice who have a non-UK issued EHIC or S1 form or who may be subject to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015. These patients will be required to self-declare at the point of registration.

Practices will be provided with a revised GMS1 form to use, (NHS England will deliver an initial stock of the new form to your practice in September and additional stock of the new form will be available to order in the usual way on the PCSE portal from October), as well as a hard copy of a patient leaflet which will explain the rules and entitlements overseas patients have in accessing the NHS in England.

Once a practice has manually recorded that the patient holds either a non-UK issued EHIC or a S1 form in the patient's medical record, they will then need to send the form and supplementary questions to NHS Digital (for non-UK issued EHIC cards) (NHSDIGITAL-EHIC@nhs.net); or by post in hard copy form to EHIC, PDS NBO, NHS Digital, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2HH) or the Overseas Healthcare Team (for S1 forms) (overseas.healthcare@dpw.gsi.gov.uk); or by post in hard copy form to the Overseas Healthcare Team, Durham House, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 7SF. Although the form will identify other patients from overseas, practices are only required to send the forms for patients with a non-UK issued EHIC or a S1 form.

Under this system, the patient's country of origin will be charged where relevant. Patients themselves will not be charged for general practice services, but as now, may be charged for some secondary care services.

New recurrent investment of £5 million will be added to global sum to support this requirement and the associated administrative workload.

Later in the year we will discuss with NHS England how an automated process could be introduced. These discussions will also include development of systems to automatically collect GP appointment data for these patients to better enable the cost recovery from their home countries.”

In summary: There is only one GMS1 form which now includes the supplementary questions and it is only when the supplementary questions are completed that the practice needs to take the additional step of sending the whole form to the appropriate agency. As a matter of urgency Derbyshire LMC has asked for clarification from GPC and NHSE about how practices who currently use their own in-house forms rather than the GMS1 will be effected by these changes and we will inform practices as soon as we hear any updates.



The actual contractual regulations can be found [here](#) and are reproduced below:

Information relating to overseas visitors

74F.—(1) A contractor must—

(a) record the information specified in paragraph (2) relating to overseas visitors, where that information has been provided to it by a newly registered patient on a form supplied to the contractor by the Board for this purpose; and

(b) where applicable in the case of a patient, record the fact that the patient is the holder of a European Health Insurance Card or S1 Healthcare Certificate([15](#)) which has not been issued to or in respect of the patient by the United Kingdom, in the medical record that the contractor is required to keep under regulation 67 in respect of the patient.

(2) The information specified in this paragraph is—

(a) in the case of a patient who holds a European Health Insurance Card which has not been issued to the patient by the United Kingdom, the information contained on that card in respect of the patient; and

(b) in the case of a patient who holds a Provisional Replacement Certificate([16](#)) issued in respect of the patient's European Health Insurance Card, the information contained on that certificate in respect of the patient.

(3) The information referred to in paragraph (2) must be submitted by the contractor to NHS Digital—

(a) electronically at NHSDIGITAL-EHIC@nhs.net; or

(b) by post in hard copy form to EHIC, PDS NBO, NHS Digital, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2HH.

(4) Where the patient is the holder of an S1 Healthcare Certificate, the contractor must send that certificate, or a copy of that certificate, to the Department for Work and Pensions—

(a) electronically to overseas.healthcare@dwp.gsi.gov.uk; or

(b) by post in hard copy form to the Overseas Healthcare Team, Durham House, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 7SF.”.

(15)

An S1 Healthcare Certificate is issued to those who are posted abroad and who pay National Insurance Contributions in the UK or to people in receipt of UK exportable benefits (for example retirement pensions). Further information is available at: https://contactcentreservices.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/selfnhsukokb/AskUs_EHIC/template.do?name=S1+form+-+what+is+this+and+how+do+I+obtain+one%253F&id=16477 or can be obtained by writing to NHS BSA, Stella House, Goldcrest Way, Newbury Riverside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8NY.

(16)

Further information about Provisional Replacement Certificates is available at: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx> or can be obtained by writing to NHS England, PO Box 16738, Redditch, B97 7PT.

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