

21 May 2014

Dear Chief Executive

**THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014 - PROVISION OF
NECESSARY TREATMENT FOR THE ACCREDITED
COMMONWEALTH GAMES FAMILY**

As part of Scotland's bid to host the Commonwealth Games, Scottish Ministers confirmed that members of the Accredited Games Family (AGF) would receive any necessary NHS healthcare at no cost for the duration of the Games.


The attached guidance provides further information including: the definition of *necessary treatment*; identification codes of the AGF; and the period covered by their exemption from NHS health charges.

In amending the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors)(Scotland) Charging Regulations 1989 to exempt the AGF from health charges, we have taking the opportunity to update the list of countries that have reciprocal health agreements with the UK (set out at Annex B).

I would be grateful if you would ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place and that all healthcare providers are aware of the AGF exemption from health charges.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure the success of the Commonwealth Games 2014.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gray

Addresses

For Action

NHS Board Chief
Executives

For Action /
Information

Medical / Clinical Directors
Nursing Directors
Overseas Visitors
Managers
Primary Care
Administrators
Medical Practitioners
General Dental
Practitioners
Optometrists
Community Pharmacists
NHS inform / NHS24

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Overseas Visitors Policy

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NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (CHARGES TO OVERSEAS VISITORS) (SCOTLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2014 (SSI 2014/70):

THE XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014 - PROVISION OF NECESSARY TREATMENT FOR THE ACCREDITED COMMONWEALTH GAMES FAMILY IN SCOTLAND BETWEEN MONDAY 7 JULY AND THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2014 (INCLUSIVE)

UPDATE OF THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH SCOTLAND HAS RECIPROCAL HEALTHCARE AGREEMENTS

Purpose

1. To advise NHS Scotland of the above amendments to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989. The amendments have implications for both primary and secondary NHS healthcare providers.

The Accredited Commonwealth Games Family (GF)

2. As part of its bid to host the XX Commonwealth Games 2014, the Scottish Government gave the commitment that, if successful, it would provide free, necessary, NHS healthcare to the accredited GF (athletes and their supporting teams; technical officials; certain members of the press and broadcasters; the Games Committee; security, etc.) in the event of illness or accident.

3. The GF will be entitled to the same levels of free healthcare as those living in countries with which the UK has reciprocal healthcare agreements. This means that they will be entitled to treatment for any condition which occurred after arrival in the UK (including pre-existing conditions which acutely exacerbate whilst here) but not for pre-planned, elective treatment or routine monitoring of chronic conditions. An amendment to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 has been necessary to place this on a legal footing.

4. The amending Regulations - The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/70) **restrict the GF's eligibility to receive necessary NHS treatment whilst in Scotland to the period between Monday 7 July and Thursday 7 August (inclusive)**. We have purposely kept the window tight, while building in time for training and travel to and from Scotland, to prevent the potential for abuse of our hospitality.

Identifying and Authenticating Members of the Accredited Games Family (GF)

5. It is, of course, the responsibility of NHS healthcare providers to establish whether or not overseas visitors are entitled to receive free NHS healthcare, or if charges should be applied. In doing so, they can ask to see reasonable proof of identity. Guidance is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/OverseasVisitors>

6. Accredited members of the GF will be issued with a **Games Family Accreditation Pass** that includes a recent photograph and a code. This entitles them to receive necessary NHS healthcare in the event of illness or accident - **a list of codes is appended at Annex A.**

7. If a member of the GF presents for healthcare based solely on their GF status, NHS healthcare providers, in both primary and secondary care settings, are asked to ensure that the patient is in possession of a coded GF pass containing their photograph, and / or to carry out any other reasonable identity checks that they deem necessary.

8. The NHS Charging Regulations only cover hospital (secondary) healthcare. However, general practitioners; dentists; optometrists; community pharmacists and other providers of family health services are asked to take this guidance into account when approached by members of the GF who require necessary treatment that can be provided in the primary care sector.

Countries with which the UK, and therefore Scotland, has entered reciprocal health agreements

9. In amending the Overseas Visitors Charging Regulations the opportunity has also been taken to update the list of countries with which the UK, and therefore Scotland, has entered reciprocal healthcare agreements, mostly to reflect constitutional changes in Europe in recent years. **The full list of reciprocal health agreement countries is appended at Annex B.**

10. Residents of these countries are entitled to treatment the need for which arose during a visit: diagnosis of symptoms or signs occurring for the first time after the visitor's arrival in the Scotland and any other treatment which, in the opinion of a medical or dental practitioner employed by, or under contract with, an NHS Board, is required promptly for a condition which arose after the visitor's arrival in the UK, or became, or but for treatment would be likely to become, acutely exacerbated after such arrival.

Contact Details

11. **We do not expect that many members of Games Family will wish, or need, to access NHS healthcare during their time in Scotland, but any enquiries in this regard should be directed to Lisel Porch in the first instance - her contact details are on page one of this CEL. General enquiries about overseas visitors wishing to access NHS healthcare should continue to be directed to NHS inform Tel 0800 22 44 88.**

ANNEX A

XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014

ACCREDITED GAMES FAMILY MEMBERS ENTITLED TO NECESSARY HEALTHCARE WHILE IN SCOTLAND BETWEEN FRIDAY 7 JULY AND THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2014 (INCLUSIVE):

ACCREDITED GAMES FAMILY - GAMES PASS IDENTIFICATION CODES FOR NECESSARY HEALTHCARE

Aa	Et	IF**
Ac	ENR	J
Ac**	EP	OBS
Ao	EPs	OC
B	G	OC**
B**	G**	P
CAS	Gi	RTa
CAS**	Gi**	RTb
CGA	Gt	RTc
CGA**	HBa	TPS
CGF	HBb	WADA
CGF**	HBc	WADA**
E	HRH	WKF
Es	IF	

SCHEDULE 2 - RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT COUNTRIES

Anguilla	Kazakhstan
Armenia	Kyrgyzstan
Australia	Macedonia
Azerbaijan	Moldova
Barbados	Montenegro
Belarus	Montserrat
Bosnia	New Zealand
British Virgin Isles	Russia
Croatia	Serbia
Falkland Islands	St Helena
Georgia	Tajikistan
Gibraltar	Turkmenistan
Isle of Man	Turks and Caicos Islands
Israel	Ukraine
Jersey	Uzbekistan