

## INTRODUCTION OF IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

1. The UK government is extending its immigration health surcharge for non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrants to Australian and New Zealand nationals on 00.01 BST on 6 April 2016.
2. The health surcharge is paid by non-EEA nationals who apply to come to the UK to work, study or join family for a period of more than six months or those already in the UK who apply to extend their stay.
3. The surcharge costs:
  - £150 per year for students or Youth Mobility Scheme participants.
  - £200 per year for all other temporary visa and immigration applications made overseas and in the UK.
  - Dependents will generally pay the same amount as the main applicant.
4. Those who have paid the surcharge will be able to access the National Health Service (NHS) in the same way as a permanent UK resident. Payment may be required for some services such as dental treatment, eye tests and prescription charges in England.
5. When you make your immigration application you will be asked some questions to see if you need to pay the health surcharge. Tier 2 intra-company transfer applicants and visitors remain exempt.
6. You must pay the health surcharge before you finish your immigration application. If the surcharge is required, but not paid, the application will be refused or treated as invalid and rejected. If an immigration application is unsuccessful the surcharge will be refunded.
7. Tier 2 intra-company transfer applicants must still complete the process through the surcharge web site. They will be informed the payment is nil but receive a unique surcharge reference number. This number is needed for their immigration application to confirm their exemption from the surcharge.
8. The surcharge payable will cover the entire period of permission to stay in the UK. For example, a person coming to the UK as a sponsored skilled migrant (Tier 2) will be required to pay the charge in full and upfront for the three year period.
9. Anyone coming to the UK for up to six months or as a visitor, for example as a tourist, does not need to pay the surcharge. However they will remain directly chargeable for hospital treatment. While the UK has reciprocal healthcare

agreements with Australia and New Zealand for visitors, these are not intended to cover all the possible medical costs that they might accrue. We continue to recommend that all visitors to the UK take out an appropriate package of travel insurance.

10. Those who are directly chargeable for their NHS care (for example visitors) and fail to pay and incur debts of £1000 or more, will normally be refused permission to re-enter or remain in the UK until that debt is paid.
11. Customer guidance is available on [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)