

Overseas visitors will be charged for taxpayer funded health care

The New Zealand Government provides free health care and disability services to people who are ordinarily legally resident in New Zealand. Very few services are provided free to people who are not New Zealand residents.

Clutha Health First is required by the New Zealand Government to ensure only people, who are eligible, are provided with free health care.

Anyone needing EMERGENCY CARE will receive appropriate treatment.

However, patients not eligible will be charged for their treatment and asked to pay on discharge from hospital.

Proof of eligibility

Clutha Health First staff will ask all patients who were not born in New Zealand to complete a form giving authorisation for Clutha Health First staff to contact the NZ Immigration Department to verify their eligibility.

Unless you can provide the following legal verification (which is acceptable as verification of eligibility on its own):

- NZ passport
- NZ citizenship certificate

For Australian citizens/permanent residents living in NZ for less than two years, proof of long-term residency, e.g. a tenancy agreement or an employment contract, or proof of home ownership, will be requested to provide eligibility.

For more information regarding eligibility for publicly-funded health and disability services in New Zealand, visit:
www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/eligibility-publicly-funded-health-services

Who pays for your Health care?

Patient Information

Clutha Health First
Phone (03) 419 0500

Are you eligible for free health care?

Yes, if you are one of the following:

- A New Zealand citizen (including those citizens who live in the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau).
- A person who has New Zealand residency status.
- A pregnant woman lawfully in New Zealand with a spouse/partner who is eligible (maternity care only).
- A foreign worker with a current work visa for two years or more (includes immediately concurrent previous visas/permits).
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident or UK citizen requiring 'immediately necessary treatment' (acute event care only). UK citizens must ordinarily reside in the UK and be in NZ on a temporary basis only.
- A refugee.
- A child under 18 years who is under the legal guardianship of an eligible person.

Are there exceptions?

Yes, all overseas visitors are eligible for free treatment under the following circumstances:

Accident:

All overseas visitors are entitled to free acute (emergency) care following an accident if ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation) accept the claim. However, you will need to apply to ACC for approval to undergo any ongoing treatment.

Compulsory Treatment

Free care is provided for any patient who has been admitted to hospital under a Compulsory Treatment Order issued under the:

- Tuberculosis Act 1948.
- Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.
- Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act 1966.

If you are not eligible, who pays?

Personal Payment

You will be personally liable for the cost of treatment and payment will be required immediately on discharge, (unless you are covered by insurance as per below). You will be emailed an invoice on discharge accordingly.

Payment for treatment can be made via:

- Reception at Clutha Health First.
- Clutha Health First website
www.cluthahealth.co.nz
- Directly online from invoice emailed.

Insurance Company Payments

It is the responsibility of the patient to arrange for all payments to be made directly to Clutha Health First. Only if an insurance company has accepted liability, and Clutha Health First has been formally guaranteed payment, will Clutha Health First invoice the insurance company directly.

General Specialist Treatment

Any ineligible patient who seeks general specialist treatment will be prioritised alongside eligible patients. The estimated cost must be paid in advance, and any additional costs must be paid at the end of treatment.

