

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref MA VG 0364 20

Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer

4 February 2020

Dear Llywydd,

The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2020

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by Sch.10 para 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, I am notifying you that this Statutory Instrument (SI) will come into force less than 21 days from the date of laying. The Explanatory Memorandum for these Regulations is attached for your information.

The 2020 Regulations amend the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 ("the Principal Regulations"). The Principal Regulations set the framework for charging persons who are not ordinarily resident in the UK for emergency and non-emergency hospital treatment which is provided in Wales.

Under the existing regulations should any overseas visitor who is not eligible for NHS-funded care (i.e. those not ordinarily resident, who have not paid the immigration health surcharge or do not have other charging exemption) present at an NHS hospital with symptoms of Wuhan novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) they would be chargeable for NHS services they receive for the diagnosis or treatment of this disease.

. Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay

0300 0604400

Caerdydd • Cardiff

Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Amending the Principal Regulations to include Wuhan novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to Schedule 1 of the Principal Regulations, exempts LHBs for charging for services provided for the diagnosis and treatment of this disease and reduces the risk of people not seeking treatment, thereby more widely protecting and lowering the public health risk.

The 2020 Regulations were made and laid as soon as practicable on public health grounds in order to remove the financial barrier for overseas visitors to seek and continue treatment from the NHS for this disease and ensure the LHBs are prepared if cases do arise. As a result, they have come into force less than 21 days after they were made.

Not adhering to the 21 day convention allows the Regulations to come into force on 4 February 2020 and in view of the circumstances surrounding this disease the reduced period is therefore thought necessary and justifiable in this case.

An Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

A copy of this letter goes to Mick Antoniw AM, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.