

## Overseas Visitors will be Charged for Government Funded Health Care:

The Government of New Zealand provides free and subsidised health care and disability services to people who meet the eligibility criteria set by the Minister of Health. Few services are provided free to people who are not ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

District Health Boards are required by the Government to ensure only people who are eligible are provided with free or subsidised health care.

As a result, Southland District Health Board will ask all patients to produce proof of eligibility.

Anyone needing EMERGENCY CARE will receive appropriate treatment. However, patients who are not eligible will be charged for their treatment and asked to pay on discharge from hospital.

## Proof of Eligibility

To help us determine your eligibility for free and subsidised services, please bring your passport (or birth certificate for New Zealand citizens who do not have a passport). For some people, additional proof is required. For example:

- Australian citizens and permanent residents – proof that you have or intend to stay in New Zealand for at least two years.
- Refugees – a letter from Immigration NZ confirming your refugee status (or evidence you are applying for or appealing refugee status)
- Children who are not New Zealand citizens or residents – parent or legal guardian's passport and proof of relationship
- Students – proof of being a Commonwealth or NZAID ODA scholarship holder. Partner and child of ODA scholarship holder – proof of relationship

Cover under reciprocal agreements

- UK citizens – UK passport and proof that you ordinarily reside in the UK
- Australians – Australian passport or passport of other nationality with permanent residence permit and residence return visa.

Maternity services for ineligible women

- Proof of partnership with an eligible partner, proof of partner's eligibility. ces, please bring your passport

For more information on eligibility:  
[www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility)



## Who Pays for Your Healthcare

## Information for Patients

# Are you eligible for free and subsidised 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)
- Have New Zealand Residency
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident in New Zealand for two years or more
- A child under 18 years of age who is under the care and control of an eligible parent or legal guardian (or under 20 for children of eligible work permit holders)
- A work permit holder eligible to be in New Zealand for two years or longer (includes time spent lawfully in NZ immediately prior to the work permit)
- A work permit holder with Ministry of Education Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship
- A student or visitor's permit holder who has been eligible since 29 October 2003\*
- A student permit holder who has a NZAID ODA scholarship (or their partner or child) or a Commonwealth scholarship
- A refugee with proof of status, or of applying/appealing for refugee status.

\*Certain conditions apply to some eligibility criteria.

Some people are eligible for a limited range of publicly funded services:

- Pregnant women whose spouse/partner who is eligible (maternity care only)
- An Australian citizen/permanent resident or UK citizen requiring urgent treatment\*

For more information regarding eligibility for publicly funded health and disability services in New Zealand, visit: [www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.moh.govt.nz/eligibility)

## 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. However, they must apply to ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation) for approval to undergo any ongoing treatment.

ACC also covers other personal injuries resulting from gradual injuries, medical treatment, and sexual abuse or assault.

### 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
- the Health Act
- the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act, or
- the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act.



## If you are not eligible, who pays?

### Insurance Company Payments

It is the responsibility of the patient to arrange for all payments to be made to Southland District Health Board (DHB). Only if an insurance company has accepted liability and Southland DHB has been guaranteed payment will Southland DHB invoice the insurance company.

### Personal Payment

In other instances (where insurance does not apply) you will be personally liable for the cost of treatment. Payment for treatment can be made Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm at:

- Southland Hospital Outpatients desk
- Lakes District Hospital Reception desk

### Elective Services

Any ineligible patient who seeks elective services at a hospital will be prioritised alongside eligible patients.

The estimated cost must be paid in advance and any additional costs must be paid in full at the end of treatment.