

## **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for Migrants**

The Immigration ACT 2014 introduced an Immigration Health Surcharge provision which came into effect from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This takes the form of an up-front payment of £400 per person for each year of stay. The process for collecting the surcharge has been incorporated into the UK visa application process for all non-EEA citizens who are applying for Tier 1, Tier 2 (excluding Intra-Company Transfers), Tier 4 or Tier 5 visas which are longer than six months in duration.

### **Who is affected?**

The surcharge affects the below applicants:

- All new out of country applications for Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 4 and Tier 5 visas of more than 6 months
- All new in country applications for Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 4, Tier 5 visas of more than 6 months
- Non EEA nationals who apply to extend their stay ( see below for exemptions)
- All dependant applications
- All EU migrants and visitors will now be required to show a European Health Insurance Card in order to avoid being charged

### **How much will the surcharge cost?**

- The surcharge will cost £400 per person for each year of stay.
- The total amount payable will depend on the length of the visa: for example, a Tier 2 migrant making a five year visa application would need to pay the annual amount for all five years upfront, equaling a total of £2000 in addition to the Home Office visa application fees.
- Dependants will also need to pay £400 pound for each year of stay.
- Students will be charged £300 for each year they expect to stay in the UK.

### **Who will pay the cost of the surcharge?**

The migrant will be responsible for paying the NHS surcharge in full at the time of the immigration application.

### **Exemptions**

- Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer) migrants will be exempt from the surcharge and will continue to access NHS care free of charge
- EU Migrants and Visitors will not be charged, however will now be required to show a European Health Insurance card in order to avoid paying the fee.
- Nationals of Australia or New Zealand

**Please find a link [here](#) to the NHS Surcharge document on the Home Office website for further information on the Surcharge and additional Exemptions.**