NHS Surcharge for Migrants

The Immigration ACT 2014 introduced an NHS health Surcharge provision which will come into effect from 6th April 2015. This will take the form of an up-front payment of £200 per person for each year of stay. The process for collecting the surcharge will be 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 will affect 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 £200 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, equalling a total of £1000 in addition to the Home Office visa application fees.
- Dependents will also need to pay £200 pound for each year of stay.
- Students will be charged £150 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.