



THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NHS

HOMELESS LINK - LONDON PLUS

THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT



THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT - NHS

Charging for NHS Care

- Statutory duty to charge
- Upfront charging for **'non-urgent'** secondary care
- Increased visa fees to use the NHS

Sharing Patient Data with the Home Office

- Sharing data to identify people that may be chargeable
- Sharing information about debt to the NHS

Racial Profiling and Discrimination

- ID checks in hospitals
- Legitimising discrimination
- Threatening attendance forms



THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT - WHO DOES IT IMPACT

- **Undocumented Migrants**
 - 600,000 - 1 million people
- **Asylum Seekers & Refugees**
 - About 200,000 people
- **Non-UK born population**
 - 14% of the population
- **Racialised people (regardless of citizenship)**
 - 13% of the population
- **People without ID**
 - 17% of people hold no passport

THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT - WHO DOES IT IMPACT

What does it mean for EU citizens now?

- EU Nationals with Settled and Pre-Settled status are entitled
- Those with a pending application also entitled
- Otherwise now chargeable for secondary care

What about people with NRPF?

- NRPF is not the same as entitlement to use the NHS (though a lot of crossover!)
- Can have knock on effects about ability to access care

SIMBA'S STORY



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THE IMPACT OF THE POLICIES?

- **Charging?** People forced to choose between destitution and good health. Delays and denial of care. Fear and deterrence from seeking care.
- **Data sharing?** Racial profiling and discrimination
- **Health worker relationships with patients?** Lack of trust and worsening relationship with health workers
- **Public health?** Makes it impossible for communities to protect themselves, especially during coronavirus

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

- **Doctors of the World**
 - Delays average 37 weeks
 - 1 in 5 unable to register with a GP
- **Patients Not Passports**
 - 57% of support organisations reported migrants too afraid to come forward, even if reassured by caseworkers
- **Public Health England**
 - Hostile Environment played causative role in disproportionate impact of COVID on BAME communities
- **Key Research**
 - Increase in time to diagnosis and time to treat for people with TB not born in the UK
 - Children denied urgent cancer treatment
 - Pregnant women avoid seeking maternity care



PATIENTS NOT PASSPORTS:

Migrants' Access to Healthcare During the Coronavirus Crisis

June 2020

Delays & Destitution:

An Audit of Doctors of the World's Hospital Access Project (July 2018 -

October 2020

www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk
29th Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5AA

BMA

Delayed, deterred, and distressed:
The impact of NHS overseas charging regulations on patients and the doctors who care for them



NHS
@ 70 : NO BORDERS IN
HEALTHCARE

Questions?

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PATIENTS NOT PASSPORTS CAMPAIGN

- Thousands of **healthcare workers, patients, communities, and individuals opposing migrant charging.**
- **Improved access to healthcare for migrants** and advocacy for people being charged
- **NHS Trusts** & other healthcare institutions to join us in opposing charging - moving towards **mass non-compliance** with the policy.
- **An end to all charging in the NHS... and universal healthcare, accessible to all!**
- **Local groups** - healthcare workers and community campaigns
- **National advocacy** - Lobbying Royal Colleges, Trade Unions, MPs etc.
- **Support from Medact, Migrants Organise and Docs Not Cops**





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