Entitlement and Charges to NHS Maternity Care

All women in the UK are entitled to NHS Maternity Healthcare regardless of immigration status - however whether or not you will be charged for this care does depend on your immigration and residence status at the time you received that care.

You are entitled to FREE NHS maternity care if at the time you receive that care you:

- have **claimed** asylum, humanitarian protection or temporary protection and are waiting for a decision on your claim or appeal
- are a dependent (for the purpose of their application) of someone in the group above
- have been **granted** refugee status, or humanitarian protection or temporary protection
- **have leave to enter or remain** in the UK as the **dependent** of someone in the group directly above
- are receiving **Section 95** asylum support
- are a refused asylum seeker in England and are receiving Section 4 asylum support
- are a refused asylum seeker in England and you are receiving Local Authority support under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014
- are a dependent (for the purpose of that support) of someone in either of the two groups directly above
- are a refused asylum seeker in Scotland or Wales or Northern Ireland,
- have been identified as a victim of trafficking or modern slavery (or you have had a decision that there are reasonable grounds to believe you are)
- are a child (UASC) in the care of the Local Authority
- in immigration detention, or in prison or you have been detained for mental health treatment
- are receiving treatment as a result of a condition caused by **FGM**, **torture**, **domestic violence (DV)** or **sexual violence (SV)** - In relation to maternity

**Notes:**
services and FGM ‘this includes any maternity services (antenatal, perinatal and postpartum treatment) the need for which is caused by the mutilation”

According to NHS regulation: No charge may be made or recovered in respect of any services provided for the treatment of a condition caused by FGM, DV, SV or torture. This is provided the overseas visitor has not travelled to the UK for the specific purpose of seeking treatment [NHS (Charges to Visitors) Regulations 2015, Regulation 9]

*PLEASE NOTE* If you are supporting women who have been subject to FGM and have been charged for their maternity care, please get in touch with Maternity Care Access Advice Service
https://www.maternityaction.org.uk/advice-2/maternity-care-access-advice-service/

Even if you are chargeable for your treatment, you cannot be delayed or refused because you cannot pay or have not paid

Government guidance states that all maternity care is immediately necessary treatment. Although you can be billed before the treatment has been given, you must be provided with maternity care even if you have not made any payments

Maternity payments

If you are entitled to asylum support and are the mother or father of a new baby, you can apply to the Home Office for a £300 maternity payment to help buy things for your baby

You must apply from eight weeks before your baby is due, until six weeks after the birth.

You can also apply if your baby was born outside the UK and you qualify for asylum support and your baby is less than three months old or in exceptional cases.

The maternity payment can only be claimed once but is available for each baby. Therefore, twins are entitled to £600.

If you are eligible for benefits or you have received a Sure Start Maternity Grant, you are not eligible for a maternity payment.

You must complete an application form from the Home Office to apply for asylum support or a maternity payment, see www.gov.uk/asylum-support/how-to-claim. The organisations listed below can provide help with completing the forms.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Support offered</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Help [Mon – Fri – 8 – 5.30pm]</td>
<td>Provides assistance to asylum seekers to complete applications for asylum support. Advice available in several languages.</td>
<td>0808 800 0631</td>
<td><a href="https://asylumhelpuk.org/">https://asylumhelpuk.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note* If you think you have been wrongly charged for your treatment or would like to speak to someone about your concerns, you can get advice from Maternity Action’s
Maternity Care Access Advice Service.

For advice on NHS charges and access to NHS maternity care you can call on Thursday between 10 am – 12 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternity Care Access Advice Service</td>
<td>0808 800 0041</td>
<td><a href="http://www.maternityaction.org.uk/advice-2/maternity-care-access-advice-service/">www.maternityaction.org.uk/advice-2/maternity-care-access-advice-service/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>