

Board meeting – Public session

Title of paper:	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (Immigration Health Charge) Directions 2015
Board meeting date:	29 April 2015
Agenda item no:	HSCIC 15 01 05 (a)
Paper presented by:	Rob Shaw, Director of Operations and Assurance Services
Paper prepared by:	Department of Health / Iain McQuillan Spine 2 Project Manager
Paper approved by: (Sponsor Director)	Rob Shaw, Director of Operations and Assurance Services
Purpose of the paper:	<p>The Visitor & Migrant Cost Recovery Programme seeks to improve NHS charging for overseas visitors or migrants (NHS Act 2006) and support the introduction of the Immigration Health Charge (IHC or ‘surcharge’) from April 2015 (Immigration Act 2014 and the Immigration (Health Charge) Order 2015).</p> <p>The direction is to cover the need for the rollout of a solution that will allow Home office to provide a data-feed that will then be uploaded to NHS systems to allow specified roles to confirm eligibility for free NHS care.</p> <p>The data-feed from the Home Office will provide only basic demographic information and eligibility for free NHS care to identify those exempt from NHS charging by virtue of their exempt status or payment of the surcharge.</p> <p>HSCIC will share no clinical or patient data with Home Office as part of the transfer and there is no requirement arising from this Direction for NHS organisations to share identifiable data with the Home Office.</p> <p>At the time of submission, the first batch of data has been received correctly from the Home Office and is being uploaded to Spine.</p> <p>In 15/16 any reasonable cost impact to HSCIC as a result of this legal direction will be agreed with, and funded by, the Department of Health. A review will be held in Autumn 2015 to better analyse the impact on HSCIC and the level of funding required in the long-term will then be agreed.</p>

Key risks and issues:

Patient/public interest:

To provide a legal directive enabling the HSCIC to operate the Spine Service changes to support the Immigration Health Charge.

Actions required by the board:

To ratify the decision to accept the Direction from the Department of Health.
