

Hospital Parking Charges (Exemption for Carers) Bill

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This is a corrected copy and is being issued free of charge to all known recipients of the original publication.

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TO

Make provision for exempting carers from hospital car parking charges; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duty to exempt qualifying carers from hospital car parking charges

- (1) Health Care providing bodies shall make arrangements to exempt qualifying carers engaged in any of the qualifying activities listed in section 2(2) from charges for parking their cars in spaces provided for service users at hospitals and other healthcare facilities where car parking charges would otherwise apply. 5
- (2) The duty in subsection (1) is the responsibility of—
 - (a) any National Health Service hospital, walk-in centre, GP practice or other health care facility to which patients are admitted, or which they attend, for diagnosis, testing, treatment or other appointment relating to their health; and 10
 - (b) any private hospital.
- (3) The duty in subsection (1) applies to car parking spaces provided directly or indirectly, including under contract, by or on behalf of a health care provider under subsection (2) for patients and other users to whom car parking charges would otherwise apply. 15
- (4) The arrangements under subsection (1) shall be implemented within a period of 12 months commencing with the date this Act comes into force.

2 Qualification

- (1) A qualifying carer under section 1(1) is a person who— 20
 - (a) receives the Carer’s Allowance, or
 - (b) has an underlying entitlement to the Carer’s Allowance.

- (2) A qualifying activity under section 1(1) is transporting, visiting or otherwise accompanying or facilitating a person to whom the care relevant to subsection (1) is provided and who has been admitted to, or is attending, a health care facility for diagnosis, testing, treatment or other appointment relating to their health. 5
- 3 Guidance on the exemption of qualifying carers**
- (1) The Secretary of State shall, after public consultation, issue guidance to health care providers, including private hospitals, on the implementation of the duty in section 1.
- (2) The Secretary of State may, after public consultation, make regulations by statutory instrument making provision about the implementation of the duty in section 1. 10
- (3) A statutory instrument under subsection (2) shall only be made after having been laid in draft before each House of Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House. 15
- 4 Duty to establish a scheme for exempting eligible carers from hospital car park charges**
- (1) Health Care providing bodies shall establish schemes to exempt eligible carers engaged in any of the qualifying activities listed in section 2(2) from hospital car park charges and submit such schemes to the Secretary of State within 12 months of this Act coming into force. 20
- (2) The duty in subsection (1) is the responsibility of—
- (a) any National Health Service hospital, walk-in centre, GP practice or other health care facility to which patients are admitted, or which they attend, for diagnosis, testing, treatment or other appointment relating to their health; and 25
- (b) any private hospital.
- (3) The duty in subsection (1) applies to car parking spaces provided directly or indirectly, including under contract, by or on behalf of a health care provider under subsection (2) for patients and other users to whom car parking charges would otherwise apply. 30
- (4) A scheme drawn up and submitted under subsection (1) shall be implemented within a period of 18 months commencing with the date on which this Act comes into force.
- 5 Eligibility** 35
- (1) An eligible carer is a person who—
- (a) has been assessed as eligible for free hospital car parking by a local authority under section 10(5)(f) of the Care Act 2014 as inserted by this Act, or
- (b) provides or intends to provide substantial care on a regular basis, other than under or by virtue of a contract or as voluntary work and has been certified as such by an appropriate clinician. 40
- (2) The Care Act 2014 is amended as follows: in section 10(5) after paragraph (e),

insert –

“(f) whether the carer should be eligible for free hospital car parking.”

- (3) An appropriate clinician for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) is a person who is responsible for the diagnosis, treatment or care of the person for whom the eligible carer cares and is a registered nurse or a registered medical practitioner. 5

6 Guidance on the development, establishment and implementation of schemes for the exemption of eligible carers

- (1) The Secretary of State shall, after public consultation, issue guidance to health care providers, including private hospitals, on the implementation of the duty in section 4. 10
- (2) The Secretary of State may, after public consultation, make regulations by statutory instrument making provision about the implementation of the duty in section 4. 15
- (3) A statutory instrument under subsection (2) shall only be made after having been laid in draft before each House of Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House.

7 Regulations, extent, commencement and short title

- (1) Regulations under sections 3 and 6 may apply to, or make provision about – 20
- (a) the duties under sections 1 and 4, and
- (b) arrangements for the exemption of qualifying, and of eligible, carers within a single statutory instrument, as the Secretary of State sees fit.
- (2) This Act extends to England only.
- (3) This Act comes into force on a day to be appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State may not appoint a day which falls after the period of 12 months after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent. 25
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Hospital Parking Charges (Exemption for Carers) Act 2016.

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To make provision for exempting carers from hospital car parking charges; and for connected purposes.

Presented by Julie Cooper.

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to be Printed, 24 June 2015.*

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