



NHS Car Parking The Government Position

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History



- 1988 Health & Medicines Act – income generation
- 2006 Health Select Committee report – concessions for regular users
- 2008 Devolved administration actions – free parking
- Sept 2009 Secretary of State announces new policy proposals (free parking for inpatients)
- Dec 2009 Consultation of range of options
- Sept 2010 Response by coalition government

What the Consultation told us



- Most patients wanted free parking but most patient advocate groups recognised need to cover costs
- Patients most wanted free for regular patients not all in-patients
- Other arguments raised against – environmental, operational/congestion, investment in facilities
- Current concessions for regular users are highly variable
- Many trusts not openly promoting their available concessions

Government Position



- Local autonomy retained (ministers do not manage the NHS)

but

- *Must provide fair concessions for regular patients (patient centred NHS)*
- *Policies must be transparent – fully publicised (informed patient choice)*
- *Management are accountable for their policy to their local community*

Fair Concessions



Health Select Committee 2005/06

Investigation into NHS Charges

“ the provision of parking spaces and the level of charges should remain a matter for individual NHS trusts to decide upon according to local circumstances.

However, allowances should be made for frequent attendees ”

- Provide free or reduced parking for all regular patients or their visitors
- Weekly cap on charges
- Inform patients of exemptions/reduced rates before treatment begins

DH Guidance 2006

- Strongly recommends free or reduced parking for the above groups
- Important that details of schemes are transparent for all users:
- Send details with appointment letters
- Also advertise by displaying on websites, in car parks and waiting rooms

Maintaining Local Standards



- Codes of Practice – NHS Confederation & BPA Hospital Charter
- Patient Choice
- Local community – FT members & Local Involvement Networks/local Healthwatch
- National & local campaigning groups – Macmillan, Which? and others
- National & local media