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Date: 10/12/14
Subject: Car Parking Charges

REQUEST

Following the Government issuing new guidance on hospital car parking charges for staff, patients and visitors on 23rd August 2014, what changes, if any, have you made to your hospital car parking policy, and have you a) increased any hourly or weekly prices in your car parks, or b) decreased any hourly or weekly prices in your car parks?

RESPONSE

The Trust welcomed the guidance from the Department of Health, entitled 'NHS patient, visitor and staff car parking principles' and has always endeavored to follow appropriate advice. In general, the Trust already complied with the guidance therefore no significant change in our policy or parking charge system was undertaken; for example:

1. Our car parking arrangements seek to ensure that users can park on our sites as safely, conveniently and economically as possible.
2. We review our car park charges in March each year and believe that our costs are amongst the lowest in the area.
3. Our visitor car park charges are capped at £6 for any length of stay and we provide concessions.
4. All the Trust visitor car parks are 'pay on exit' ensuring that drivers pay only for the time that they have used.
5. All car parks are Park Mark accredited.
6. The only fines that are issued are for dangerous or inappropriate parking and we also administer a warning system that can be used in advance.
7. For staff, we have a monthly permit available at competitive rates and we do not currently have any restrictions on the allocation of permits.
8. The Trust runs a shuttle bus between its hospital sites, every 20 minutes, during day-time each weekday for staff, patients and visitors.