

Parents face £100,000 NHS bill after baby comes early

Kat Lay

A Malaysian couple could face a £100,000 bill after their baby was born prematurely while they visited family in England.

Irina Ishak, 35, a surgeon, was visiting her sister, who works as an anaesthetist at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, when her waters broke. She was less than seven months pregnant. Ms Ishak was taken to hospital and her



baby was born on August 3. The boy, Amin, remains in the high dependency unit and is likely to be there for at least another fortnight.

Ms Ishak and her husband, Hakam Razak, 36, say that they have been "overwhelmed" by

Hakam Razak and Irina Ishak with their daughter Alya, three

wellwishers raising thousands of pounds on the crowdfunding site Gofundme to help them with their unexpected bill.

Although they had travel insurance, they did not realise it did not cover pregnancy-related complications.

Mr Razak, an engineer, said: "We've spoken to the NHS and there's no way they can reduce the fee. We understand the rules are there for a reason. We're using all our savings but it isn't enough. We have to do what's best for the baby."

Under NHS rules the couple are

charged 150 per cent of the NHS standard rate. The total bill will be given to them on discharge but Amin has spent a month on the intensive care ward, where care costs £2,000 a day. He is struggling with breathing and is being fed through a tube.

He weighed 3lb and 10oz when born and will not be allowed to fly home until he has reached at least what would have been his full term on October 10. The couple have raised more than £20,000 so far. To donate visit gofundme.com/AminMikael.

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