

European Health Insurance

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone get a European Health Insurance Card?

You can get a European Health Insurance Card in Ireland if you are **ordinarily resident** here.

What treatment does the Card entitle me to when I go abroad?

The Card entitles you to necessary healthcare in the public system of any EU / EEA member state or Switzerland if you become ill or injured while on a temporary stay in that country. The Card does not cover the cost of treatment in a private setting.

The Card does not entitle you to travel abroad with the aim of getting healthcare through the public system.

Do I need private insurance in addition to the Card?

Public healthcare systems vary from country to country, and few countries pay the full cost of healthcare for holders of the Card. The Card does not cover the cost of repatriation. In addition, illness or an accident abroad may mean extra travel and accommodation costs. You may therefore wish to take out private insurance for your trip. For more information about your entitlements in particular countries, contact your local Health Office or log on to www.doh.ie.

Will I need to apply for a new Card each time I go abroad?

No. Your Card will be valid for up to 2 years.

How long will it take to get a Card?

You will receive your Card within approximately 10 working days of receipt of your application.

What if I don't have time to get a Card before I travel?

You can get a Temporary Replacement Certificate, which gives you the same entitlement as the Card, but for a shorter period, and can be issued by your local Health Office. One Temporary Replacement Certificate is issued per person.

What do I do if I become ill or injured in another Member State?

To obtain healthcare with the Card, go to the nearest public system doctor, public hospital, or other public treatment centre and present your Card. Treatment in a private setting is not covered by the card.

Do I need a Card to get healthcare while on a visit to the UK?

No. You can get healthcare if needed during a temporary stay in the UK by giving proof of residency in Ireland. There is no need for a Card, although your Card will of course be sufficient to access such treatment.

Can I speak to someone about this change?

If you would like more information, please call your local Health Office:

HSE South

Cork – South Lee Local Health Office, Abbeycourt House, George's Quay, Cork. Tel: 021- 4965511.

Cork – North Lee Local Health Office, Abbeycourt House, George's Quay, Cork. Tel: 021- 4965511.

West Cork Local Health Office, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Tel: 028- 21722.

North Cork Local Health Office, Gouldshill House, Mallow, Co. Cork. Tel: 022- 22220.

Carlow/Kilkenny Local Health Offices,

Carlow Community Care, Athy Road, Carlow. Tel: 059 91 36520

Kilkenny Community Care Headquarters, James's Green, Kilkenny. Tel: 056 77 84600.

South Tipperary Local Health Office, Western Road, Clonmel. Tel: 052-22011.

Waterford Local Health Office, Cork Road, Waterford. Tel: 051-842800.

Wexford Local Health Office, George's Street, Wexford. Tel: 053-23522.

Kerry Local Health Office, 18-20 Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel: 066- 7121566.

www.ehic.ie