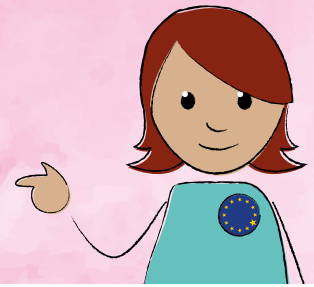


ACCESS TO THE NHS FOR EU CITIZENS



What is the NHS?

The NHS stands for the **National Health Service**. It refers to the Government-funded medical and health care services in the UK. People often refer to these health services as ‘free at the point of use (or delivery)’. There’s more than one NHS in the UK: NHS England, NHS Wales (GIG Cymru), and NHS Scotland provide health care services in Great Britain. The healthcare service in Northern Ireland is called the Health and Social Care Services (HSC). There are slight differences in what is fully funded by government and what services are available across the different UK countries. For example, NHS England asks some people to pay part of the cost of prescriptions (the drugs given to treat or cope with an illness or injury). Whereas, in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland these costs are budgeted for by the government.

Who is the GP?



The general practitioner (GP) is the **“family doctor”**. The GP is the first point of contact for all non-emergency healthcare needs. It is usually your first point of access to the NHS. The GP treats all common medical conditions and refer patients to hospitals and other medical services for urgent and specialist treatment. Your GP will have an important role in looking after you in your home and within the community where you live.

What is primary care?

Primary care provides the **first point of contact in the healthcare system**. Primary health care includes:



- ✓ access to a GP
- ✓ dental treatment
- ✓ eyesight tests
- ✓ family planning services
- ✓ prescriptions
- ✓ some mental health services

What is secondary care?

Secondary care describes the sort of services you might be referred to if you need to be seen by **someone with more specialist knowledge**. Secondary health care includes:



- ✓ services mainly based in a hospital or clinic
- ✓ specialist doctor
- ✓ physiotherapist
- ✓ dietician

What is A&E?



Accident and emergency (A&E) departments offer access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Medical staff are highly trained in all aspects of emergency medicine and they deal with genuine life-threatening emergencies.

You can call **999 for emergency services** in the event of a serious medical emergency. You can call **111 if you want non-urgent medical advice**. Both lines are free to use no matter who you are, or where you are.

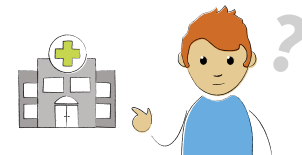


Can I access primary care and A&E treatments?

EU citizens in England, Wales and Scotland, regardless of their immigration status, will be entitled to access (A&E) treatments and register with a GP to receive NHS primary care services (pharmacy, practice nurse, dentist, optician services). In Northern Ireland, entitlement to NHS care, including primary care, is generally based on ordinary residence. In order to be considered ‘ordinarily resident’ in Northern Ireland, you must be living there lawfully and on a settled basis. Hospital, dentist, pharmacist and optician should make clear which services/treatments can be provided on the NHS and which can only be provided on a private basis, and the costs associated for each.

When registering with a GP there is no requirement to show an ID or proof of residence, although you may be asked for them to track your medical records.

GP services are never chargeable.

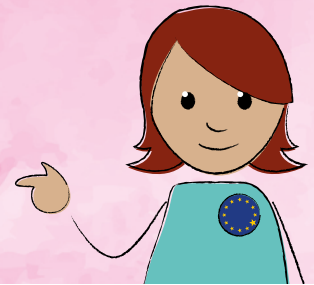


Can I access secondary care?

If you have (Pre-)Settled Status, you will be entitled to secondary care but you may be asked to provide proof of (Pre-)Settled Status and that you are settled in the UK (you can show rental agreement/bills/letters from school). If you do not have a status, you will be charged 150% of the tariff for any secondary care service received.



ACCESS TO THE NHS FOR EU CITIZENS



I have applied for an EUSS status BEFORE 30/06/2021 and I'm waiting for a response...

You may be required to demonstrate that you have applied for a status (by providing your certificate of application (COA) share code) and that you are settled in the UK (you can show rental agreement/bills/letter from school).

You should not be charged for your treatments until you receive an outcome.



I have applied for an EUSS status AFTER 30/06/2021 (late application) and I'm waiting for a response...

You will be charged for treatment received before the application was submitted. You will be charged 150% of the tariff for any secondary care service received. You will not be chargeable from the date your application has been submitted and until you receive an outcome.

You will need to demonstrate that you have applied by providing your certificate of application (COA) share code. You may be asked to prove that that you are settled in the UK (you can show rental agreement/bills/letter from school).

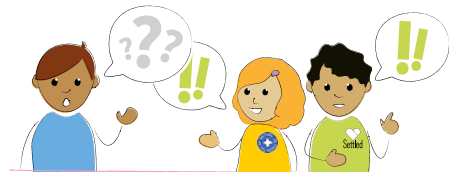
Unsuccessful applicants will be charged for all care received.



I'm not eligible for an EUSS status...

In order to access free NHS secondary care services, you can show that you:

- have paid the immigration health surcharge (IHS)
- hold a visa exempt from the IHS
- have Indefinite leave to remain
- have a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- have been issued with an S1 or an S2 form (e.g., if you are a frontier worker or their family member)



I'm having difficulties accessing health services...

If you have a GP and are having trouble accessing other NHS services, speak to your GP about this. If your problem is getting a GP, contact Doctors of the World. Doctors of the World can give you free and confidential support whatever your immigration status and wherever you live in the UK.

Doctors of the World's advice line is open (10 am to 12 midday Monday to Thursday) on **freephone 0808 1647 686**.

I'm having difficulties with my EUSS status...

If you are having difficulty with your EU Settlement Scheme, you should contact the **Home Office EUSS Resolution Centre** on **0300 123 7379**. If you continue to have difficulties, Settled can give you free advice. Contact **advice@settled.org.uk** or **0330 223 5336**.



Settled is a new charity that aims to help vulnerable EU citizens in the UK to apply to the EU Settlements Scheme. The charity works with a network of volunteers across the country.

- If you can, **please donate to Settled** so we can reach out to vulnerable EU citizens across the country: settled.org.uk/en/donate/
- If you wish to **become a volunteer**, please join us at settled.org.uk

Registered charity
no. 1184580
OISC organisation
no. N201900057



Doctors of the World work tirelessly to empower excluded people to access healthcare. Working both at home and abroad through over 350 projects, we provide medical care, strengthen health systems and address underlying barriers to healthcare.

