

STER  
HEALTHCARE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LONDON  
IDENTIFICATION  
PAGE  
LIVERPOOL



# **VISITING THE UK**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Do I need my passport to travel to the UK?</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Do I need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to get healthcare if I am going to the UK for a short stay?</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Will I be able to get free prescriptions if I am in the UK for a short stay?</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>What do I need to know about emergency services in the UK?</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Can I access dental services in the UK?</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Is there any other information I need to know?</b>	<b>17</b>

*This chapter has information on things you need to know if you are going to the UK for a short stay. You will find information on bringing your passport, your right to receive healthcare and emergency care.*

### **Do I need my passport to travel to the UK?**

No, Irish citizens do not need their passports to travel to the UK. However you will need some form of photo identification, for example, drivers licence.

## Do I need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to get healthcare if I am going to the UK for a short stay?

No, you do not need a EHIC to get healthcare in the UK if you are going for a short stay. You will get healthcare if you need it during your stay, however you may have to prove that you ordinarily live in Ireland.

There is no need for you to have a European Health Insurance Card if you are going to the UK, but if you do have one you should take it with you as it will be accepted if you need treatment and it may help prove that you ordinarily live in Ireland.

Necessary treatment from the National Health Service (NHS) is free of charge.

For GP treatment you can contact any NHS GP practice. If you need help finding the contact details for a GP practice in your area you should contact your local Irish organisation or Citizens Advice Bureau. This information can also be found at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) under your Local Health Services.

In most circumstances if you need to be referred to see a specialist, this is organised by a National Health Service GP. Specialist treatment is then provided free of charge.

## Will I be able to get free prescriptions if I am in the UK for a short stay?

In the UK a GP or nurse can prescribe treatment/medicines. You will need to take your prescription to a pharmacist to process. You will have to pay £6.50 (2007 figure) per item.

In some cases you will be able to get your prescription free. Free prescriptions are available to:

- Children 16 years of age or under
- Pensioners
- Pregnant women.

## What do I need to know about emergency services in the UK?

If you need to call an ambulance transport you should call 999 or 112 (EU Standard Number). This transport is free of charge.

## Can I access dental services in the UK?

Yes, you can access dental services in the UK but there are charges for NHS dental treatment. If you need information on where to find a NHS dentist you can contact the NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or their website at [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk). For further information on your entitlement and availability, you can contact the local Health Authority (the NHS Direct can give you contact details for your local Health Authority). There is a Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) in every NHS Trust Primary Care Trust (PCT) and local Health Authority. They can help you find an NHS dentist.

## Is there any other information I need to know?

Some major population areas have “Walk-in Centres”, which are staffed by nurses and provide treatment for minor injuries etc. These services are available free of charge. For more information on this please contact a local Citizens Advice Bureau or your local Health Authority. You can also contact your nearest Irish Organisation (see **Chapter 14 - Irish Contacts**) as they may be able to provide you with information on your nearest centre.





# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>What documents should I bring with me?</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>What contact numbers should I bring with me in case I run into difficulties in the UK?</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Important information</b>	<b>22</b>

*This chapter has essential information on documents you will need to bring, what contact details you should bring in case you run into difficulties.*

## What documents should I bring with me?

### You should bring:

- Photo identification, for example, passport, drivers licence
- Details of your qualifications
- CV and employment details
- If you have been in private rented accommodation you should bring references from previous landlord/s
- Records of your Irish social insurance contributions (PRSI contributions)
- If you have children who will be attending school in Ireland you should bring school reports and references from your children's schools
- Driving licence and details of your previous car insurance cover
- Birth certificate (Long Version)
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Divorce certificate (if applicable).

## What contact numbers should I bring with me in case I run into difficulties in the UK?

If possible you should bring the contact details for:

- Friends or family members
- Irish centres in your area
- Irish Embassy/Consulate
- Contact details for support groups/organisations in your area including a Citizens Advice Bureau.

### *Important information*

If you have an addiction problem or if you plan to get on a drug treatment programme or detox programme in the UK please be advised that you need to plan carefully. Please contact Crosscare Migrant Project for assistance. Some people go to the UK with this intention, but they do not plan and prepare properly and some people end up homeless.

