

LANGUAGE LIVE!

EMPLOYMENT
INFORMATION

SHEFFIELD

NOTTINGHAM

04

The logo for 'HEALTHCARE' features the word in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters 'H', 'E', 'A', 'L', 'T', 'H', 'C', 'A', 'R', 'E' are arranged in a single line. The letter 'H' is partially enclosed by a solid blue circle on its left side, which overlaps the letter.

Introduction	26
How do I register with the NHS?	26
How can I find a GP?	28
How do I register with a GP?	28
What treatment is available from a GP?	29
What services will I be entitled to if I am pregnant?	30
Will I be able to get hospital treatment?	31
Will I have to pay hospital charges?	31
How can I find an NHS dentist?	32
Is there anywhere else I can get treatment for a minor illness?	33

The healthcare system in the UK is different than Ireland. People who are ordinarily resident in the UK have the right to be registered with a GP and access the NHS. You can choose which GP you want to be registered with. A GP does not have to accept you but if they do refuse to accept you they must have reasonable grounds for doing so and must give you their reasons in writing.

How do I register with the NHS??

If you are moving to the UK or resuming permanent residence in the UK you will be entitled to free National Health Service (NHS) hospital treatment in the UK.

If you intend to live permanently in the UK you will be exempt from hospital charges from the date of your arrival in the country. You may be asked to prove your intention is to live permanently in the UK and that you are legally entitled to live in the UK.

NHS Direct in England and Wales

NHS Direct is a confidential service in England and Wales offering advice and information about health problems and services.

It provides 24-hour access to free health advice from experienced nurses. The line is intended to help people care for themselves by advising on the next course of action, for example, whether to stay at home and what self-treatment to take, whether to visit a GP or a hospital. NHS Direct can be contacted by telephone on 0845 46 47 (all calls are charged at local rate) or on the Internet at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk in England, or www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk in Wales.

NHS 24 in Scotland

In Scotland, information about NHS services, as well as health advice and support is available from NHS 24 at www.nhs24.com or by phone on 0845 424 2424. Further information about NHS services is available from the NHS Scotland freephone line 0800 224 488 and at www.show.scot.nhs.uk

How can I find a GP?

You can get a list of local GP's from the Primary Care Trust or local Health Authority. GP practices are listed in the phone book, on the Internet at www.nhs.uk or at a public library. In England and Wales you can also find details of GP's from the National Health Service Direct and NHS Direct online. The list will contain the following information about each GP:

- The surgery address and telephone number
- The gender of the GP
- Particular health interests
- Whether the GP does minor surgery
- Whether the GP offers contraceptive and/or maternity services.

How do I register with a GP?

You can phone or visit a practice and ask if the doctor will accept you as a NHS patient. When you first register with the NHS you will be given an NHS number and medical card. The medical card will also have information such as your name, address, date of birth, and details of the registered practice or individual doctor.

Some local Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will not issue a medical card or will only issue one if requested.

If you already have a medical card you should take your medical card to the GPs surgery in order to register with the GP of your choice. A GP may wish to see you before agreeing to register you. The GP will forward the medical card to the local Primary Care Trust (PCT) who will send you a new medical card.

If you are staying somewhere in the UK for less than 3 months you should ask a GP if you can register with him/her on a temporary basis. You can also register temporarily if you intend to move around the country and if you have no permanent address.

What treatment is available from a GP?

You are entitled to treatment from a GP at the surgery where you are registered but you may not always be able to see your own GP. Most GP's will only do home visits if they think that your medical condition requires it and depending on how urgent the visit is.

If your GP decides you need medication they will usually give you a prescription. Your GP will supply any medicine needed for immediate treatment in an emergency. There is no prescription charge for this medicine.

If you change your address you should inform your GP. If you move address but are not moving too far you can ask your current GP if they are willing to continue treating and visiting you at your new address. A GP can continue to treat you if you have moved out of their practice area but they will have to inform the Primary Care Trust that they are willing to continue visiting and treating you.

What services will I be entitled to if I am pregnant?

If you are pregnant you will be able to receive services from:

- Midwives based either in a hospital or in a local health centre or clinic. Midwives are responsible for the care of all normal pregnancies and labours. You do not need to be referred to a midwife by your GP
- A GP- not all GPs provide ante-natal care and arrange for delivery. If your GP does not provide this service you may wish to register with another GP for your maternity care. The Primary Care Trust can provide details of GPs who offer maternity care
- An obstetrician based in a hospital. Generally, an obstetrician will only get involved if there are complications. However, you can request to see an obstetrician even if the midwife or GP is providing all the care.

You can get information on local maternity services from your Primary Care Trust, a health visitor or your GP.

Will I be able to get hospital treatment?

You cannot receive NHS hospital treatment without being referred by your GP unless you are attending a special clinic or you need urgent medical attention in an emergency.

If you need urgent medical attention you can go directly to the accident and emergency (A&E) department of a hospital without needing a referral from your GP. Not all hospitals have accident and emergency departments.

Will I have to pay hospital charges?

No there is no charge for most hospital treatment for NHS patients who live in the UK. However there are charges for the emergency examination and treatment of people involved in road accidents. There are also charges for certain services, for example, beds with more privacy.

How can I find an NHS dentist?

You may find it difficult to find a dentist that provides NHS treatment. Some dentists do not provide NHS treatment or only provide treatment to certain groups of people, for example, children or people getting benefits or tax credits.

Not all dentists who provide NHS treatment have to take you on as an NHS patient. If you want NHS dental treatment you will need to find out which dentists in your area provide NHS treatment and then find one who is prepared to accept you for treatment as an NHS patient.

To find a list of NHS dentists in your area you can phone the NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or look on their website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk and www.wales.nhs.uk

You have to pay for NHS dental treatment although some groups of people may get free treatment, for example, people who are getting benefits.

Is there anywhere else I can get treatment for a minor illness?

Yes there are NHS walk-in centres in England and Wales staffed by nurses. You can go there without an appointment. They will treat minor illnesses, for example coughs, colds, and infections, as well as minor injuries like strains, sprains and cuts. They provide information about all other local health services, including pharmacies, dental services and out-of-hours GP services.

For the address of your nearest walk-in centre you should contact the NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or on the website www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk and www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk