

A GUIDE TO YOUR RIGHTS FOR EEA/EU CITIZENS IN SCOTLAND

Factsheet 4. My Right to Healthcare

This factsheet provides a brief summary of your right to access free healthcare from the National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland before, during and after the Brexit transition period.

What are my rights now (until 29 March 2019)?

- **Everyone in Scotland has the right to receive free treatments for the following:**
 - emergency care in a hospital (in the accident and emergency department, casualty department or minor injury unit)
 - emergency care at a GP surgery
 - emergency transport in an ambulance
 - sexual health services (family planning)
 - treatment for some infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections in the best interests of public health.
- **Everyone living in Scotland for more than 3 months has the right to register with a GP.**
- You may be asked to show a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** when you register with a GP, but even if you do not have one, you still have the right to register with the NHS and receive medical treatment.
- If you are staying for less than 3 months, you can still receive treatment but as a 'temporary resident'.
- **You and your family members can also access free**

non-emergency primary (GP) and secondary (hospital-based) health care from the NHS in Scotland if you can prove you have the **right to reside**.

- **Your non-EEA/EU family members** may need to also provide proof of their right to join you in Scotland in order to receive free treatment, for example, an EEA family permit.⁶

What will my rights be during the Brexit transition period (30 March 2019 to 31 December 2020)?

- The UK and the EU have reached agreement in principle that there will be no change to your rights during the Brexit transition period.
- They have also agreed that EEA/EU citizens arriving during this period will enjoy the same rights as those who arrived before Brexit.
- However, the transition period will only come into effect if the **withdrawal agreement** is ratified by both the EU and the UK before 29 March 2019.

⁶ <https://www.nhsinform.scot/publications/healthcare-for-people-coming-to-scotland-to-work-factsheet>

What will my rights be after the transition period (after 1 January 2021)?

- Your rights to NHS services after the transition period are not yet clear. They will be negotiated between the EU and the UK during the transition period.

How can I find out more?

- **For information about health conditions and services, phone the NHS inform Helpline on 0800 22 44 88 (textphone 18001 0800 22 44 88; the helpline also provides an interpreting service). The helpline is open every day between 8am and 10pm.**
- **Contact the Patient Advice & Support Service (PASS) at your local citizen's advice bureau** (find your nearest bureau on the internet at www.cas.org.uk or in your local phone book). PASS is independent and provides free, confidential information, advice and support to anyone who uses the NHS in Scotland.

Last Updated September 2018

Funded by the Legal Education Foundation.

