



Department of Health & Social Care

The Embassy answers your questions about EHICs

There is still much confusion over who is/will be eligible for either a UK EHIC or a Spanish one, & whether or not negotiations on this matter are still ongoing.

The right to a UK or Member State (e.g. Spanish) EHIC for people who are within scope of the WA is not being negotiated. The country that covers you for healthcare issues you with an EHIC. If Spain covers you for healthcare then you can apply for a Spain-issued EHIC. If the UK covers you, then you can apply for UK EHIC.

If you are an early retiree living in Spain, then you will not get an EHIC from either country until you start working again or start to receive a state pension.

UK issued EHIC for residents in Spain:

This is for S1 form holders, frontier workers, or students who remain in scope of the WA. It is valid for use before and after 31 December 2020, when the holder travels across the EEA/EU. Those in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement will continue to be able to use EHIC to access healthcare from 2021, for as long as they remain covered by the WA.

Spain-issued EHIC (Tarjeta Sanitaria Europea – TSE):

If you work in Spain and make social security contributions, you can be issued with a TSE for use across the EEA/EU. To find out how to apply for a Spain issued EHIC, please visit our Healthcare in Spain guide on gov.uk. As long as you are legally resident in Spain before the 31st December 2020, you will be able to use your Spain issued EHIC when you visit the UK both before and after the transition period.

Accessing healthcare as a permanent resident

It is possible to register for healthcare on the basis of permanent residency and people have been doing so since May 2017. Further information can be found on our Healthcare in Spain page on gov.uk – or directly via the INSS.

For those not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement

The future of reciprocal healthcare arrangements between the UK and EU are subject to negotiations, which are currently ongoing. As part of its published approach to the negotiations with the EU, the UK has indicated that it is open to working with the EU to establish arrangements that provide healthcare cover for tourists, short-term business visitors and service providers. The UK's published approach to negotiations, 'The Future Relationship with the EU' and the draft legal text of an agreement covering social security coordination (including reciprocal healthcare) can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-approach-to-the-future-relationship-with-the-eu>

The Government always advises that anyone travelling overseas, whether to the EU or elsewhere in the world, and anyone visiting the UK, should **take out comprehensive travel insurance**. This remains our advice.

**Department of Health & Social Care Team
British Embassy**