

UPDATE FROM EMBASSY 26 FEBRUARY

General updates:

Continuation of S1 scheme

Following the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which came into force on 1 January 2021, eligible pensioners, frontier workers and certain other groups – and their family members - will continue to have their healthcare costs covered by the UK should they move to the EU. This means that if you are a UK state pensioner, who moves to Spain from 1 Jan 2021 onwards, you will be able to benefit from special provisions where the UK will continue to fund your healthcare and you will benefit from equal treatment in respect to healthcare. To be covered, new residents can apply for an S1 form, as before, via the Overseas Healthcare Service. However, as the NHS is a residence-based healthcare system, those UK state pensioners that move to the EU from 1 Jan 2021 onwards will not automatically be eligible for free NHS healthcare when visiting England. For more information about access to the NHS if you live in the EU, you can visit this page on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Please note that S1 form holders in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement continue to be able to access free NHS treatment in England, as before.

The Embassy will be publishing some animations about the continuation of the S1 scheme, plus some explainers about the different types of EHICs/GHICs in circulation in due course.

Sending medication via courier from the UK to Spain

The Embassy have received many enquiries from UK nationals (many of whom are swallows) who have sent medication from the UK to Spain. Some have been charged additional import fees and experienced significant delays in receiving the medication, and others have had the medication returned to sender. Checks are tighter, and whilst UK nationals may have successfully sent medication before, we are hearing of more and more cases of medication being held at customs and denied entry. There are regulations relating to importing medication, and you should check with the [Spanish consulate](#) in the UK about local rules for entering Spain with any specific medicines, or importing them. UK nationals who are here on a temporary stay and run out of medication can seek a prescription from a local hospital or clinic, and if they are ordinarily resident in the UK and are lawfully present in Spain (i.e. haven't exceeded their 90/180 limit) they can use their EHIC or GHIC to do so.

Temporary visitors to Spain, which includes swallows, can read more about travelling with medication, prescriptions and pre-arranged treatments (such as oxygen therapy) on our [Healthcare for UK nationals visiting Spain](#) guide on gov.uk. You can also read more about [travelling with controlled medicines](#) on gov.uk, as well as guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#).

S1 registration issues:

Problem: Face to face appointments unavailable and UK nationals can't register their S1 forms

The healthcare team has published a [new page on gov.uk](#), which gives a detailed guide to how to register an S1 online with the INSS. For those who have been unable to get an appointment in person to register their S1 form, they may wish to try registering online.

Problem: Registration successful, but long waiting time before receiving paperwork from INSS and not able to register with the health centre in the meantime

For those who have registered their S1, but not yet received the letter from INSS, they can go online here and check the status of their application:

[Consulta del derecho y emisión del documento acreditativo del derecho](#), and download a copy of the *documento acreditativo del derecho* which they can then use to register with their health centre. For those who need urgent treatment, but whose application isn't confirmed yet, they can apply for a provisional replacement certificate (PRC) via the Overseas Healthcare Service to cover any necessary treatment.

Problem: Unable to get an EHIC or GHIC, because the Overseas Healthcare Service say they aren't eligible

UK nationals who have recently been issued with an S1 form have the entitlement to necessary care covered by an EHIC/GHIC, but they won't be able to apply for a physical card until they have registered the S1 form locally, and the INSS has informed the UK of this. In the meantime, if they travel, they can apply for a provisional replacement certificate (PRC) if they need necessary treatment, via the Overseas Healthcare Service. The type of card they receive will depend on when they moved to Spain – before 1 Jan 2021 they will receive an EHIC, and from 1 Jan 2021 onwards they will receive a GHIC. New cards can be requested at www.nhs.uk/ghic