

# HOW TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE IN SPAIN



Healthcare access in Spain is not residence based as it is in the UK. UK nationals who live in Spain usually access the Spanish national health system in one of these ways

## AS A WORKER

If you're working or self-employed in Spain, you're entitled to state healthcare on the same basis as a Spanish citizen. Your dependants are also entitled, and need to register separately.

→ Register at your local health centre with your social security number. You can get a social security number from your local National Social Security Institute (TGSS) office in Spain.

If you have previously worked, or claim a Spanish benefit, you may also be entitled to healthcare. Check your entitlement with your local INSS office.



## AS AN S1 FORM HOLDER

You can apply for an S1 form if you claim a UK state pension, or you are a dependant of someone who does.

Apply for your S1 form by calling the Overseas Healthcare Team in the UK: +44 (0)191 218 1999

→ When you get your S1 form, you must register it with your local social security office (INSS).

This will mean you and your dependants will be entitled to state healthcare on the same basis as a Spanish citizen.

You can also apply for an S1 if you are a Posted Worker.



## AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT

If you've been a resident in Spain for 5 years or more, you can apply for permanent residency. This will give you access to state healthcare on the same basis as a Spanish citizen.

Once you're a permanent resident, you can register for healthcare at your local INSS office.

→ Call the Overseas Healthcare Service on +44 191 218 1999 and ask for a 'legislation letter'. This tells the Spanish authorities that the UK does not cover your healthcare.

Make an appointment to register with your local INSS office

You can also complete the process online. See our guide for details on the process



# BY PAYING A MONTHLY FEE (CONVENIO ESPECIAL)

You pay a monthly fee to join the scheme, which gives you access to the Spanish health system.

You can apply if you've been registered on the 'padrón' (at your local town hall) for at least one year. The application process differs slightly in each region, please consult with your local regional authority's website. You can find a list of the regional authority websites on [our guide](#).



Please note that prescription costs are not subsidised under the Convenio Especial, you will need to meet the full cost of prescription medication.

## AS A STUDENT

You can read about how to access healthcare if you are temporarily studying in Spain, on our Healthcare in Spain guide



[www.gov.uk/healthcareinspain](http://www.gov.uk/healthcareinspain)



## AS A POSTED WORKER

A posted worker is someone who is employed in the UK, but temporarily sent to another European Economic Area (EEA) country.

Currently, posted workers use an EHIC or an S1 form (depending on their circumstances) to access Spanish healthcare.

HMRC has a [helpline](#) for National Insurance enquiries from non-UK residents. They can answer questions about posted worker status and explain which UK issued documents you will need to get healthcare while posted.



## STAY UP TO DATE

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[Sign up for alerts](#) today to keep up to date with how the end of the Transition Period affects your access to healthcare



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