



Reg. as Help Ass of Vega Baja  
G03644010

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(24 hr emergency line)  
[www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com)

### Obtaining a Health Card

British Citizens who come to live in the Valencian Autonomous Community are entitled to health care under the Spanish System as it operates in the area covered by the Valencian Autonomous Community. The process for applying for a health card varies according to the circumstances of the individual but generally speaking, there are 6 main categories. This fact sheet does not provide information on those who are self employed or in paid employment. (Group 6)

#### **Group 1 - E121 form**

Those who have reached the UK official retirement age and are therefore entitled to a retirement pension from the Ministry of Works and Pension in Newcastle should apply for their Spanish Health Card using an E121. If you were not sent one when you received your pension documents you should telephone Newcastle on 0044 191 218 7777 and ask for one. They will need to know your UK National Insurance Number and other relevant details.

Take your passport, padron certificate, residencia certificate or card and E.121 to the 'INSS' social security office in Orihuela and register your application for a Spanish Medical Card (SIP card). You will be issued with a paper card (Tarjeta de Afiliación).

Take your E121 form and Social Security number to your local Clinic/ Health Centre (salud) where a temporary medical card ( called a SIP card ) will be issued. This card will give the name of your doctor on the reverse and will be valid until a permanent plastic card arrives in the post.

#### **Address of Social Security Offices**

Calle San Agustin 20, ORIHUELA

Ave Alicante 2, ELCHE

#### **Group 2 - E121 form**

The E121 can also be issued to those who are in receipt of a state incapacity benefit. Once again, if you did not ask for a E121 before you came here to live, telephone 0044 191 218 7777

#### **DEPENDENTS**

When you register your E121, you can request the inclusion of a dependant (it will be necessary to provide proof of kinship - marriage/birth certificate, passport). The INSS should then issue form E107 and send it to Newcastle upon Tyne, requesting separate forms E121 which, on the front page, will bear the name of the pensioner and, on the back page, will bear the name of the dependant. However, if the INSS refuse to issue form E107, the pensioner should contact the DWP directly to request the additional E121 forms. It is essential to inform the Dept Works and Pensions of the full details of any person you want covered by your E121. They will want to know the national insurance number, name and age etc of the person concerned and their relationship with you. This is to ascertain if they are entitled to health cover in their own right or not and also, whether they have a right to be included on your E121. These "dependant" copies of form E121 should be registered at the INSS in the same way as the "pensioner's" copies.

### **Group 3 – E106**

This is the European form that a British person, of working age and living in Spain, requires in order to get state provided health care in Spain.

- In most cases, an E106 is issued to persons who are posted to Spain, to work for a period of 2 years or more, and who continues to pay National Insurance contributions in the UK. In this instance the E106 is issued by:

HM Revenue and Customs. CAR – Residency  
Room BP1301. Benton Park View  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1ZZ  
Tel: 0845 915 4811 From outside the UK: +44 191 203 7010

- In some circumstances, persons under UK State Pension age who move to Spain to live permanently (but not work) may be entitled to an E106 for a limited period. In this instance the E106 is issued by:

DWP International Pension Centre  
Room TC001. Tyneview Park. Whitley Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1BA  
Tel: 0191 218 1999

In order to register your E106 you will firstly need to obtain the following:

- i) Certificate of Residence (*Certificado de Residencia*) – available from the local Police station.
- ii) Certificate as a Local Resident (*Certificado de Empadronamiento*) – available from the Local Town Hall (at the *Padrón* Office).
- iii) Photocopies of the above documents.

Take these with both copies of your E106 to your local INSS office. They will retain one copy and return the other copy signed and stamp. This copy can now be used in order to access the healthcare system. You do not need to register with a local GP as is the case with the E121, but simply go along to the doctor as and when you need. However, this may mean that you are not seen by the same doctor every time.

The E106 is valid until the expiry date indicated on the document and a doctor can refuse to treat you if the form has expired. If no end date is specified, the document is valid until the International Pension Centre informs Spain that the service has to end. When visiting the UK you still belong to the NHS and E106 holders should continue to use their UK-issued EHIC, but only when visiting a third member state. One month before the expiry date of your E106, contact the Department of Works and Pensions in the UK and ask for a letter stating that you are no longer entitled to any of the E forms (this letter will be written in Spanish) Read information given under Group 6 to find out what to do next.

Please note: If you have an E106 and require a European Health Card (EHIC) for travel purposes, you will have to apply to Newcastle to obtain it.

If you have any queries phone (+44 191) 2181999.

### **Group 4 - E.107**

If you are using an E106 form (see above) and have dependants that need to be included, you should ask the INSS (Spanish Social Security Office) to include them. Be ready to produce your marriage certificate or *certificado de convivencia* to prove that you are a couple (the latter is obtainable from the register of *Padrons*' desk in your local Town Hall). The Spanish Social

security office will decide whether you are eligible. If the dependant can be included, they will send form E.107 to the D.W.Pensions in the UK to inform them of the fact.

### **Group 5 - E112**

Those who intend to reside in Spain permanently and who are receiving treatment or medication from the UK for a pre-existing and on-going medical condition, should ask for an E.112 form. This only entitles bearer to health care for the pre-existing condition. This is not issued automatically because it requires authorisation from the Department of Health. E112 holders can continue to use their EHIC, even if they are residents, for the period they are covered by their E112.

To apply for an E112 send a letter providing full details and dates when treatment is due, as well as supporting medical evidence from your GP to the following address:

International Pension Centre  
Medical Benefits Section  
Room TC001  
Tyneview Park  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE98 1BA  
Tel 0191 21 81 999  
or +44 191 21 81999 (outside UK)

### **Group 6 – No E Form**

Those who do not qualify for an E form from the UK but have a Spanish health card which lasts for one year, and which was granted under the previous rules, will be unable to renew it when it expires. (Read press release dated 5 June 2008 from The British Embassy, Madrid obtainable from our website or our offices) They should, therefore, consider taking out private health insurance.

<p>To the best of our knowledge this information was correct on the date given below. However, rules and regulations can and do change so it is advisable to check with our office that this fact sheet has not been superseded. June 2008 SM/JBH</p>
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