



San Miguel Centre
Calle Lope de Vega 45,
San Miguel de Salinas
03193, Alicante –

Telephone: 966 723 733 (24 Hr Emergency Line)

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INFORMATION SHEET No 11

HEALTHCARE FOR NON-RESIDENTS

GLOBAL HEALTH INSURANCE CARD

DOCTORS

The Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) is issued to British Subjects so that they can receive emergency treatment whilst on holiday in Spain.

Treatment using the Health Card is only provided by practitioners within the Spanish Health Service. You will have to attend your local health centre (Centro de Salud) to receive treatment. Go to the “Desplazado” counter and show the card and your passport. Ask to see a doctor and an appointment will be made for you. When you attend for your appointment you will be issued with an application form to complete, which asks for your name, passport number, address, and the reason for requesting medical attention. Tick the box "Extranjero" (Foreigner) and give it to the doctor when you see him/her.

If you need to call out a doctor in an emergency, make it clear that you have a Global Health Insurance Card and that you want to be treated under the reciprocal arrangements.

Have a photocopy of your card ready, show the doctor the original and hand over the copy.

Medicines prescribed by health service practitioners can be obtained from any Pharmacy (Farmacia). You will have to pay up to 40% of the cost unless you are a UK pensioner, in which case the medicines will be free of charge.

Dental treatment is not generally provided under the state system.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Any hospital treatment you may need will usually be arranged by a doctor. If you require urgent treatment it will be provided free of charge only in public hospitals such as the Doctor Manuel García Gea Hospital in Torrevieja, the Vega Baja Hospital in Orihuela, or another state hospitals in the area. Show your GHIC Health Card and passport, or tell them that you want treatment under reciprocal arrangements. If you fail to do this you will be charged as a private patient and will be given a bill.

You will not be able get your money back or reclaim it on your return to the UK. If you are taken to the Hospital **Quiron** in Torrevieja, which is a private hospital, you will be charged for their services. Make sure you have private medical insurance if you are treated for an emergency in this hospital.



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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

It should be noted that the GHIC card does not cover you for medical treatment required after a vehicle accident. Any treatment obtained from the hospital will result in you being issued with a bill, as it is expected that the insurance company will be liable for payment.

Please remember that the GHIC card only gives you medical cover for illness or accidents that occur whilst you are on holiday in Spain. If you are already receiving treatment or medication for any ailment from your doctor in the UK, then an appropriate supply of any medication required for your visit must be brought with you.

OBTAINING THE CARD IN AN EMERGENCY

If for any reason you do not possess a card and one is needed to obtain treatment you can get a Provisional Replacement Certificate (PRC) to prove your entitlement to medically necessary healthcare if you travel to Europe without your GHIC Card and need treatment during your visit.

You'll need to apply for a PRC by calling Overseas Healthcare Services at the NHS Business Services Authority on +44 (0)191 218 1999, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.