

Planned Healthcare in Europe for Ayrshire & Arran residents

Introduction

This leaflet explains what funding you may be entitled to if you normally live in Ayrshire & Arran and are travelling abroad to another European country for planned¹ healthcare. It also describes how to apply for funding. (If you don't follow the correct process you will have to pay for the costs of your healthcare yourself). Changes have occurred since the UK's exit from the EU on 31.12.20.

Travelling abroad for planned healthcare

The European Economic Area (or EEA) is a group of European Union countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. If you are thinking of going to another EEA country (or Switzerland) for planned healthcare, European law states that in reasonable cases this should be paid for by the country that a person normally lives in. This means that people normally living in Scotland can ask the NHS (National Health Service) in the UK to pay for healthcare in EEA countries. People can only get funding for healthcare they would normally be offered within the NHS in Scotland.

Following the UK's exit of the EU, there is only one way to potentially get NHS-funded healthcare in EEA countries:

- The S2 Scheme (formerly known as E112)

Countries included in the European Economic Area are listed below.

Austria	Greece	Netherlands
Belgium	Hungary	Norway*
Bulgaria	Iceland*	Poland
Cyprus	Ireland	Portugal
Czech Republic	Italy	Romania
Denmark	Latvia	Slovakia
Estonia	Liechtenstein*	Slovenia
Finland	Lithuania	Spain
France	Luxembourg	Sweden
Germany	Malta	

*please see below regarding options for these countries and Switzerland

If you live in Ayrshire & Arran, you should discuss your plans with NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office **before** you make any travel or medical arrangements for

¹ UK citizens travelling in EEA countries can access free or reduced-cost emergency state-funded healthcare using a European Healthcare Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). EHIC/GHIC do not cover private healthcare; or any planned treatments or planned operations. Check out status of EHIC/GHIC changes since BREXIT on the Department of Health NHS Choices website at: www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad.

planned healthcare in another EEA country. Tel 01563 825876 or email: aa.unpacsoffice_crosshouse_hospital@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office will talk to you about the choices available to you. This is important, as there have been changes to this route since BREXIT date 31.12.20.

The S2 Scheme (formerly known as E112)

Previous UK S2 funding arrangements ended on 31.12.20. From 01.01.21, new **UK S2** applications received can be progressed under the new scheme, which is very similar to the previous UK S2 scheme, although you may not be eligible for funding if the country you want to have treatment in is in: *NORWAY, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN OR SWITZERLAND.*

You may be able to request UK funding for planned treatment under the S2 route in Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein (as well as EU countries and Switzerland) if you're:

- an EU, Swiss, Norwegian, Icelandic or Liechtenstein national, and you've been living in the UK since before 1 January 2021
- a UK State Pensioner or receiving some other 'exportable benefits', and you've been living in the EEA or Switzerland since before 1 January 2021
- a "frontier worker" (someone who works in one state and lives in another), and you've been one since before 1 January 2021, for as long as you continue to be a frontier worker in the host state
- a family member or dependant of one of the above

The S2 scheme covers only **state-funded** healthcare in an EEA country and if the healthcare is provided under the same funding arrangements that apply to residents of the country you are visiting. This could mean that you have to pay for part of the healthcare costs yourself (sometimes referred to as a co-payment).

If you want to use the S2 scheme and you live in Ayrshire & Arran, you must contact the NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office before you travel for healthcare. They will discuss the options available to you and tell you what information you need to provide. If NHS Ayrshire & Arran agrees that you can travel to an EEA country for healthcare under the S2 Scheme, the UNPACs Office will complete the appropriate paperwork for you (once you have sent the UNPACs office the information listed below) and the UNPACs Office will send this to the Overseas Healthcare Services Team at NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for processing. NHSBSA is an arm's length body of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), based in Newcastle; they issue S2 certificates for residents throughout the UK. If NHSBSA agrees to issue an S2 certificate for you, they will send it directly to your home address in Ayrshire & Arran. You will then take the S2 certificate with you to the European/EEA country where clinicians have agreed

to provide your healthcare and give it to the hospital there. The funds will be transferred directly from UK Government to the hospital abroad.

What should I do next?

Not everyone is eligible for the S2 scheme and prior authorisation is always required. The best way to know if you are eligible is to contact the NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office on:

Telephone: 01563 825876
Email : aa.unpacoffice_crosshouse_hospital@aapct.scot.nhs.uk
Address: NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office
57 Lister Street, University Hospital Crosshouse , KA2 0BE

If you would like to apply to NHS Ayrshire & Arran for an S2 certificate on your behalf, the NHS Ayrshire & Arran UNPACs Office will need the following details:

- Your name, address and date of birth
- Proof of Ayrshire & Arran residency
- National Insurance number (NI number)
- The healthcare which you require
- A letter from your NHS Ayrshire & Arran hospital doctor saying why the healthcare is needed
- The name and address of the **state-funded** hospital which will provide your healthcare in the EEA country
- The name of the doctor who will be responsible for your safety while receiving the healthcare
- Confirm with the state-funded hospital that they will accept an S2
- Dates when the planned healthcare is due to take place
- Arrangements for any NHS follow-up care when you return to Ayrshire & Arran

It is important for you to know that:

- You will need to pay for the costs of your travel insurance, accommodation and food; and cost of travel.
- It is strongly recommended that you have travel insurance which includes comprehensive medical insurance specifically covering travel for medical treatment. This is your responsibility.
- It is strongly recommended that you also have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or the new UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) to cover emergency, **state-funded** healthcare.
- If problems or complications happen, you will have to pay for any additional costs, including additional travel costs e.g. air ambulance
- You are responsible for ensuring that the healthcare is appropriate and safe within the laws of the EEA country providing the healthcare (not under UK or Scottish legislation). NHS Ayrshire & Arran cannot vouch for the quality or safety of healthcare you may choose to use in Europe. NHS Ayrshire &

Arran is not liable for the outcomes of any healthcare received in an EEA country. Treatment outwith the UK is not covered by the NHS clinical negligence scheme.

Further information

You can obtain further information at the following websites:

NHS Inform

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/european-cross-border-healthcare/travelling-to-europe-for-planned-healthcare-the-s2-scheme#the-s2-scheme>

NHS Business Services Authority

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/contact-us/overseas-healthcare-services-contact-us>