

Reciprocal healthcare agreements for visitors to the UK

1.1 The UK has reciprocal healthcare agreements with some non-European Economic Area (EEA) countries. Overseas visitors who can present evidence that they are nationals, citizens or lawful residents (as appropriate) of one of these countries should be treated as exempt from charges in respect of treatment that the relevant agreement entitles them to.

1.2 Within the reciprocal agreements there are a number of variations in the level of free treatment afforded to visitors travelling to the UK. Generally, only immediate medical treatment is to be provided free of charge, to allow the overseas visitor to return home for other needs. Also, the agreements do not usually apply when the person has travelled to the UK for the purpose of obtaining healthcare. However, this is not always the case. See the table below for the level of free treatment by country, and other conditions that apply.

Country	Level of cover provided (see key)	Further information
Anguilla	1*	Applies to all residents of that country. Can also refer four patients to the UK for free NHS hospital treatment (persons hoping to be referred should contact authorities in Anguilla in the first instance).
Australia	1*	Applies to all residents of that country.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Applies to all insured persons of that country.
British Virgin Islands	1*	Applies to all residents of that country. Can also refer four patients to the UK for free NHS hospital treatment (persons hoping to be referred should contact authorities in the British Virgin Islands in the first instance).
Falkland Islands	4	Applies to all residents of that country. Can refer an unlimited number of patients to the UK for free elective treatment (patient should arrange this with the Falkland Islands')
Gibraltar	3	Applies only to citizens resident in that country when that citizen is not expected to stay in the UK for more than 30 days. Can also refer an unlimited number of patients to the UK for free elective treatment. Patient should arrange this with the Gibraltar authorities.
Isle of Man	2	Applies to all residents of the Isle of Man for a period of stay in the UK that has not exceeded, nor is expected to exceed, three months.
Jersey ¹	2	Applies to all residents of Jersey for a period of stay in the UK that has not exceeded, nor is expected to exceed, three months.
Kosovo	3	Applies to all insured persons of that country.
Macedonia	3	Applies to all insured persons of that country.
Montenegro	3	Applies to all insured persons of that country.
Montserrat	1*	Applies to all residents of that country. Can also refer four patients per year for free NHS hospital treatment (persons hoping to be referred should contact authorities in Montserrat in the first instance).
New Zealand	2	Applies only to citizens resident in that country.
Serbia	3	Applies to all insured persons of that country.

St Helena	1*	Applies to all residents of that country. Does not include Ascension Island or Tristan da Cunha. Can also refer four patients per year for free NHS hospital treatment (persons hoping to be referred should contact authorities St Helena in the first instance).
Turks and Caicos Islands	1*	Applies to all residents of that country. Can also refer four patients per year for free NHS hospital treatment (persons hoping to be referred should contact authorities in Turks and Caicos Islands in the first instance).

¹ The UK has a reciprocal agreement with Jersey, but not with the other Channel Islands.

Key:

1. Immediate medical treatment only.
2. Only treatment required promptly for a condition which arose after arrival into the UK or became, or but for treatment would have become, acutely exacerbated after such arrival. Services such as the routine monitoring of chronic/pre-existing conditions are not included and free treatment should be limited to that which is urgent in that it cannot wait until the patient can reasonably return home.
3. All treatment on the same basis as for a person insured in the other country, including services such as routine monitoring of pre-existing conditions, but not including circumstances where a person has travelled to the other country for the purpose of obtaining healthcare.
4. All treatment free on the same terms as for an eligible UK resident (an 'ordinary resident'), including elective treatment.

For all levels of coverage, it will be for a doctor or dentist employed by the relevant NHS body to provide clinical input into whether required treatment meets a specific level of coverage.

* For these countries, the agreement will also apply to those persons requiring treatment if they are a member of the crew, or a passenger, on any ship, vessel or aircraft travelling to, leaving from or diverted to the UK and the need for urgent treatment has arisen during the voyage or flight.