

Name
Address
Address
COUNTRY
Postcode

Date: <Date issued>

Reference number: <01234567890>

Dear <Enter name>

I'm writing to you from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) about your healthcare cover in <country>. I've included two copies of your S1 certificate of entitlement that you need to give to the local Health Office in <country>.

Once registered, the S1 gives you the same healthcare cover as a legal resident of <country> under their state-provided healthcare scheme. This cover is unlikely to be the same as you get from the NHS in the UK and you may need to pay for some treatments or services.

You should also be aware that:

- private treatment and the cost of getting you back to the UK is not covered (you may want to get your own insurance for this)
- some social services may not be available

Registering with the local authorities

To register your S1, you must take both copies of the S1 form to your local Health Office in <country>. **If you do not do this, the UK will not be responsible for your healthcare costs.** Your local Health Office may ask you about your right to live in <country> and to prove your identity. If accepted, they will register your S1, keep one copy and send the other to us.

Your healthcare cover is only valid **once your S1 has been registered**, which may take several months. Cover will usually start from the date shown on your S1, but the local Health Office may set a later date.

Reporting changes of circumstances

The NHSBSA and the office where your S1 is registered must be informed:

- if you start work, receive another income, or start getting a pension from another country;
- if you change address in <country> or move to another country (including the UK);
- in the event of the certificate holder's or dependant's death; or
- in the event of a change in circumstance of any dependants, if applicable.

Private insurance

It is advised that you think about getting private medical insurance to help with the cost of any treatment you may need before your S1 is registered and for any charges not covered by the state-provided healthcare scheme in <country>. **Do not wait** until you need treatment as you may be charged costs that cannot be refunded.

For advice in other languages

Interpreter → ☎ +44 (0)191 218 1999
say which language you need.

This call will be charged at a local rate.

**We can also provide documents in
large print and braille on request**

Your entitlement to healthcare cover while visiting other countries

You may be entitled to a UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). The UK EHIC and GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise that you take out travel insurance when going abroad, both to EU and non-EU destinations.

Your entitlement to medical cover in the UK

The NHS is a residence-based system and moving abroad can mean you lose any entitlement to free NHS healthcare.

If you moved to the EU, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein on or before 31 December 2020, you will continue to be entitled to free NHS healthcare in England and Wales. Your existing entitlement to free healthcare when visiting Scotland will also continue. You will still need to pay any statutory charges that residents of that country would pay, for example prescription charges. We recommend that you make a copy of your S1 form and bring it with you with your UK EHIC as this will help prove that you are entitled to NHS treatment. Always make sure the treatment facility in the UK knows you have an S1 even if you do not have a copy to show them. You will not need prior authorisation from <country> but you may need a referral from a GP before you begin treatment in England.

However, if you moved to the EU, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein on or after 1 January 2021, you may be charged for NHS healthcare when visiting the UK unless another exemption applies. You should take out appropriate travel insurance when visiting the UK, as you would when visiting any other country.

You should check before travelling to the UK whether you qualify for an exemption from charging or will be required to pay for your treatment.

In all cases, you must tell your former GP that you now live in <country>. If you return to live in the UK (including Northern Ireland), you should tell us, de-register your S1 with the authorities in <country> and tell your GP in the UK that you are back. This will ensure no unnecessary healthcare payments are made to <country> when you do not live there.

For general enquiries, use the Ask Us section of our website. Find out more about your data rights and how we use your information at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/yourinformation.

Email us: nhsbsa.ohsregistrations@nhs.net

Phone us Monday to Friday 8am-6pm (UK time): +44 (0)191 218 1999

Write to us: Overseas Healthcare Services, NHSBSA, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6SN, UK and include your reference number.

Yours sincerely



Head of Overseas Healthcare Services
NHS Business Services Authority