



Search



Menu

[Health A to Z](#)

[Services](#)

[Living Well](#)

[Back to Other types of medical card](#)

## Discretionary medical cards

You may not qualify for a medical card based on the means test. But if you have medical expenses, you may qualify for a discretionary medical card.

A discretionary medical card gives you the same services as a means-tested medical card.

### The discretionary medical card assessment process

The application process is the same for a means-tested medical card. But you can also provide information about your family's medical expenses.

These include:

- attending your GP
- medications or appliances
- hospital treatment

### Medical expenses

Include evidence of medical expenses in your application.

Medical expenses include:

- copies of receipts for prescribed medicines
- copies of receipts or bills from your GP, consultant or other healthcare professional
- evidence of purchase or renting healthcare appliances. For example, a CPAP machine or independent living equipment

Medical officers and deciding officers will then assess your application.

## How long cards are issued for

Discretionary medical cards are issued for a specific time frame. The time frame will depend on your circumstances.

## Include a medical report

Include a medical report if you want to be assessed for a discretionary medical card.

We might write to ask you for a medical report if you have included medical bills in your application.

The medical report can include information from:

- GP
- Hospital consultant
- Public health nurse
- Social worker
- Therapist
- You, your carer or family members

Below is a standard medical report template form your GP can fill in.

[GP medical report form for discretionary medical card application \(PDF, 97KB, 2 pages\)](#)

[◀ Back to Other types of medical card](#)

### More in [Other types of medical card](#)

[16 to 25 year olds](#)

[Over 70s](#)

[Children with cancer](#)

[Domiciliary Care Allowance](#)

[Discretionary medical cards](#)

[Emergency medical cards](#)

[Redress for women resident in certain institutions](#)

[People from other EU countries](#)

## [HSE Live – we're here to help](#)

Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm

Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: Closed

Bank holidays: Closed

Freephone: [1800 700 700](tel:1800700700)

From outside Ireland: [00 353 1 240 8787](tel:0035312408787)

[HSE Facebook](#)

[HSE Instagram](#)

[HSE TikTok](#)

[HSE YouTube](#)

[HSE LinkedIn](#)

[HSE X \(Twitter\)](#)

[Complaints and feedback](#)

[Emergencies](#)

[Cookie settings](#)

[Cookie statement](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy statement](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

© Health Service Executive