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# Keeping a medical card after unemployment

If you are returning to work, you may be able to keep your card for 3 years. This can be from when you start employment to when your benefits end.

You must have been receiving a full social protection payment or government employment scheme payment for 12 consecutive months.

You will need to submit a new medical card application stating you are applying on this basis.

## Part-time work or other change in employment status

If you start part-time work after you've been unemployed for 12 months or more, you may keep your medical card for 3 years.

If you begin a Government approved or sponsored incentive schemes ([CE Schemes](#)) you may continue to keep your medical card.

## Dependent family members

Dependent family members may qualify to keep their card, even if they become employed during this 3 year period.

## After 3 years

If you receive the card for 3 years and continue working, your eligibility will be assessed using the normal guidelines.

If there are any changes to your employment status, [contact us](#).

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Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: Closed

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