

EHIC – European Health Insurance Card



specimen

If you have an EHIC, then when you travel to other EU countries you will be eligible for the same healthcare benefits as citizens of that country.

After Brexit, the U.K. introduced its own version of the EHIC card, the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This card functions similarly to its predecessor, allowing Brits access to state healthcare during visits to the EU.

In What Countries Can You Use the EHIC?

- **If you are an EU citizen**, you can use the European Health Insurance Card in all countries of the European Union as well as in Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.
- **If you have a residence permit for an EU country** (but are not a citizen), then you cannot use your EHIC in Denmark, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- **If you are a U.K. citizen**, you can use your EHIC (while it is valid) or its successor GHIC only in EU countries, not in Denmark, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

How to Apply for an EHIC?

To apply for an EHIC, you have to contact the relevant healthcare authorities in your country of residence. Once you contact them and ask for the card, they are required to provide you with one because it is your right as a citizen/resident of the EU. Depending on where you live, you can request the card online, by mail, or you will have to show up in person at the adequate offices. The EHIC is issued free of charge by the relevant authorities in your country.

Important – the EHIC

- is **not a substitute for travel insurance**. It does not cover any private healthcare or any costs for repatriation, such as a return flight to your home country or any costs for lost/stolen property,
- does **not cover** any costs if you are **travelling for the sole purpose of obtaining medical treatment**,
- does **not guarantee free treatment**. As each country's healthcare system is different, services that cost nothing at home might not be free in another country.