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Guidance

Healthcare for UK nationals living in Slovakia

How to get state healthcare if you live, work or study in Slovakia.

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From:

Department of Health and Social Care (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>), Foreign & Commonwealth Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>), and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office>)

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Stay up to date

This guidance will be updated if anything changes to how you get state healthcare in Slovakia. Sign up for email alerts (<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup/?topic=/world/living-in-slovakia>)

This information is about living in Slovakia. There's different guidance if you're visiting Slovakia (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-residents-visiting-the-eueea-and-switzerland-healthcare>).

To access state healthcare you must have health insurance cover with one of Slovakia's 3 health insurance funds. You still have to pay to use some parts of the healthcare system such as prescriptions and some emergency care.

UK nationals usually access the Slovak healthcare system in one of these ways:

- making insurance contributions
- private health insurance
- using a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) for temporary stays
- registering a UK-issued S1 form with one of the insurance funds

Healthcare if you live and work in Slovakia

You must register as a resident if you plan to stay in Slovakia for more than 3 months.

Everyone must have health insurance in Slovakia. You need to make contributions to one of Slovakia's 3 health insurance funds if you're:

- employed by a Slovak employer
- self-employed
- a permanent resident in Slovakia

If you're employed by a Slovak employer, your employer will arrange for your health insurance contribution to come directly out of your salary before you're paid. They'll also pay part of the contribution for you.

If you're self-employed, you need to arrange to pay your insurance contributions directly to your chosen insurer.

You can add your dependants on your insurance plan if they are not eligible to make their own insurance contributions.

You may be entitled to a Slovak EHIC for travel, including visits to the UK.

You may also have the right to apply for a UK S1 if you start drawing a UK State Pension.

How to register

First, register as a resident (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-slovakia#visas-and-residency>).

Then choose which insurance fund you want to join. There are 3 health insurance funds in Slovakia:

- Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://www.vszp.sk/en/how-become-our-insured-person/>)
- Dôvera zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://prihlaska.dovera.sk/>)
- Union zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://prihlaska.dovera.sk/>) (website in Slovak)

If you're working for a Slovak employer, tell them which fund you've chosen and they'll register you.

If you're self-employed or not working, you can register directly with your chosen fund.

Once you've registered, you'll get an insurance card as a proof of your coverage.

You can also apply for a combined insurance card. This has your Slovak insurance fund details on one side and your Slovak EHIC on the other for use when travelling around the EU.

Show your insurance card when you register with your GP and each time you see a doctor.

You'll need to get a referral from a GP to see a specialist.

How much you'll pay

Most treatment and services are free if you have insurance.

Basic dental treatment is free. Your dentist can tell you what's covered and what you'll pay extra for.

You may have to pay for prescription medicines and home visits by a doctor.

There's a one-off charge of 10 euros for emergency care. Sometimes you can get the money back for this, for example if you're admitted to hospital.

If your UK employer has sent you to Slovakia temporarily ('posted workers')

A posted worker (<https://www.gov.uk/working-abroad/posted-workers>) is someone who is employed or self-employed in the UK, but temporarily sent to another European Economic Area (EEA) country.

UK posted workers can access healthcare in Slovakia using a UK-issued EHIC or an S1 form if Slovakia opts in to posted worker arrangements as a part of the agreement with the EU. Slovakia needs to confirm this by the end of January 2021.

If Slovakia does not opt in to posted worker arrangements, you may need to do one or more of the following:

- join a local healthcare scheme
- cover the cost of your healthcare with private health insurance

HMRC has a helpline for National Insurance enquiries from non-UK residents (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/national-insurance-enquiries-for-non-uk-residents>). They can answer questions about posted worker status and explain which documents you will need to get healthcare while posted.

UK-funded healthcare: using an S1 form in Slovakia

There's different guidance if you have an S1 as a posted worker.

You may be entitled to state healthcare paid for by the UK if you're a Slovak resident (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-slovakia>) and receive a UK State Pension.

You may also be entitled to an S1 form if you're a frontier worker (someone who works in one state and lives in another). You must contact HMRC National Insurance enquiries (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/national-insurance-enquiries-for-non-uk-residents>) to find out if you're eligible.

If you've been living in Slovakia since before 1 January 2021, you may also be entitled to an S1 if you receive some other 'exportable benefits'.

Not all UK benefits that can be claimed while abroad entitle you to UK-funded healthcare. Read more about claiming benefits if you move abroad (<https://www.gov.uk/claim-benefits-abroad/where-you-can-claim-benefits>) or contact Jobcentre Plus (<https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>) to ask about a benefit.

Once you have an S1 form, you must register it on the Slovak system.

This will mean you and your dependants will be entitled to healthcare in Slovakia on the same basis as a Slovak citizen.

You'll also get:

- a UK-issued **EHIC** (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-ehic-european-health-insurance-card/>) for travel
- planned treatments (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/going-abroad-for-treatment/what-is-the-s2-route/>) in other EU countries

If you moved to the EU before 1 January 2021, you'll have access to the NHS in England when you're visiting.

Dependants and family members may be classified differently in Slovakia than the UK.

Check with the local authorities when you register your S1 form.

How to get an S1 form

If you have a UK State Pension, you must request an application form by phone from NHS Overseas Healthcare Services.

NHS Overseas Healthcare Services

Telephone: +44 (0)191 218 1999

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Saturday, 9am to 3pm

How to use an S1 form in Slovakia

You must register your S1 form with one of the 3 health insurance funds in Slovakia:

- Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://www.vszp.sk/en/how-become-our-insured-person/>)
- Dôvera zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://prihlaska.dovera.sk/>)
- Union zdravotná poisťovňa (<https://www.union.sk/zdravotne-poistenie-na-Slovensku>) (website in Slovak)

You can choose which fund to join.

Once registered, you'll get an insurance card as a proof of your coverage. This will show you're entitled to healthcare on the same basis as a Slovak citizen.

Studying in Slovakia

You can use an **EHIC** or GHIC (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-ehic-european-health-insurance-card/>) to get medically necessary healthcare until the end of your study period.

Moving back to the UK

If you return to the UK you'll be able to use the NHS like any other UK resident.

Read more about using the NHS when you return to live in the UK (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-nhs-when-you-return-to-live-in-the-uk>).

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1. 31 December 2020

Updated sections on living and working in Slovakia, using an S1 form in Slovakia, posted workers and studying in Slovakia. Changes reflect healthcare arrangements for people moving to Slovakia under the new rules of the UK's deal with the EU.

2. 9 November 2020

Updated 2 sections: 'Healthcare if you're using an S1 form in Slovakia' and 'Healthcare if you're studying in Slovakia'. Students and people with a registered S1 in Slovakia can now apply for a new UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) that will remain valid from 1 January 2021.

3. 23 September 2019

First published.

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- Healthcare for UK nationals living in Estonia (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-estonia>)
- Healthcare for UK nationals living in Norway (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-norway>)
- Healthcare for UK nationals living in Iceland (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-iceland>)
- Slovakia travel advice (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/slovakia>)

Detailed guidance

- Living in Slovakia (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-slovakia>)

Collection

- **Healthcare in the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland**
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/healthcare-in-the-eu-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-and-switzerland>)

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