

Special regulations

As a **pensioner** you can move your place of residence within the EU, but still remain insured in your country of origin. Upon presentation of the **Form S1** you can choose a health insurance company in Germany and receive a national insurance card there so that you can take advantage of regular health care under German law. The card is only valid in Germany. The **Form S1** can be obtained from your health insurer in your country of origin. Alternatively, the health insurance company selected in Germany can request the form directly from your health insurance company in the country of origin.

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Note: The right to health care in the country of origin remains. You keep your insurance card from your country of origin and can also use it (with the EHIC) in other EU countries.

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Example: Mr. Y and Ms. Y are Bulgarian nationals and both are pensioners. They move to Germany to live with their daughter. They register at the Registration office and inform the health insurance company in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian health insurance company issues the Form S1. This allows them to choose a health insurance company in Germany and receive an insurance card that they can use to see a doctor at any time.

As a **chronically ill person**, who needs treatment in special facilities in Germany (e.g. dialysis patients), you can receive the necessary medical care free of charge during a trip. Inform your health insurance company of this and have the **Form S2** issued for you.

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Example: Ms. X is a Romanian citizen and needs dialysis four times a week. She would like to visit her daughter who lives in Germany. In order for her to receive the necessary medical care in Germany, she must inform her health insurance company in Romania. She receives the Form S2 in order to receive the necessary dialysis treatment during her stay in Germany.

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The Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration
Office for the Equal Treatment of EU Workers

What is the EHIC – European Health Insurance Card?

An overview of health care for EU citizens



Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft

der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege

Access to the health system is an important issue. In Germany, health insurance is compulsory. As it is not always easy to find your way around, a number of flyers should provide you with initial assistance:

<https://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/advice-centre-search>

For more information on health care and a list of health insurance clearing locations, visit:

<https://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/publikationen>

You can find a Migration advice centre near you here:

<https://www.eu-gleichbehandlungsstelle.de/health>

What is the EHIC – European Health Insurance Card?

→ Proof of your health insurance as a card with which you can receive medically necessary services.

When and where do I use the EHIC?

- When? During a temporary stay (e.g. on vacation), in hospitals or medical practices.
- Where? In all EU countries and in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland.

Where can I obtain the EHIC?

- You can apply for the card from your health insurance company. The EHIC is often already on the back of the national health insurance card.
- If the health insurance company is unable to issue an EHIC at short notice, you will receive a provisional replacement certificate (PEB).

Which medical services can I receive and which not?

- In the event of an acute illness, you are entitled to the same medical care as in your country of origin.
- There is also cover in the event of a chronic illness or pregnancy if the trip was not made solely for the purpose of treatment.



Note: You may find yourself having to pay for medical services that you would not have to pay for in your home country. The regulations of the country in which you are currently staying always apply.

The EHIC does not apply

- when entering the country with the aim of being treated or
- for treatments that can be planned. For this you need the prior consent of your health insurance company.



Example: Mr X from Italy is visiting his brother in Germany. He slips on the street and breaks his leg. On presentation of the EHIC, he will receive the necessary treatment in the hospital.

How are the costs of the services settled?

You choose a German statutory health insurance company, which takes care of settlement with your health insurance company. In the medical practice or at the hospital you have to fill out the **Form “Patient Declaration of European Health Insurance”**. It will be given to you in the language version desired. Submit this form, your identity card or passport and proof of insurance (EHIC) to the German health insurance company.

How long is the EHIC valid?

- It is not the date on the insurance card that is decisive, but rather whether you are still insured in your country of origin.
- The EHIC is no longer valid as soon as you are permanently in Germany and have moved your place of residence. This is the case if the centre of your life is in Germany.



Note: If in doubt, ask your health insurance company about the validity of your EHIC.

What happens if I have lost my EHIC?

In an emergency, it is sufficient to give the address of your health insurance company in the country of origin to the doctor or hospital. Together with your identity card or passport, settlement via a German health insurance company is possible.

What should I do if my EHIC is not accepted?

This may be for various reasons. Please contact an Advice centre.

