

# A GUIDE TO YOUR RIGHTS FOR EEA/EU CITIZENS IN SCOTLAND

## Factsheet 4. My Right to Healthcare

This factsheet provides a brief summary of your right to access free healthcare from the National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland before, during and after the Brexit transition period.

[www.civilsocietybrexit.scot](http://www.civilsocietybrexit.scot)

### What are my rights now (until Brexit Day\*)?

- **Everyone in Scotland has the right to receive free treatments for the following:**
  - emergency care in a hospital (in the accident and emergency department, casualty department or minor injury unit)
  - emergency care at a GP surgery
  - emergency transport in an ambulance
  - sexual health services (family planning)
  - treatment for some infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections in the best interests of public health.
- **Everyone living in Scotland for more than 3 months has the right to register with a GP.**
- You may be asked to show a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** when you register with a GP, but even if you do not have one, you still have the right to register with the NHS and receive medical treatment.
- If you are staying for less than 3 months, you can still receive treatment but as a 'temporary resident'.
- **You and your family members can also access free**

**non-emergency primary (GP) and secondary (hospital-based) health care** from the NHS in Scotland if you can prove you have the **right to reside**.

- **Your non-EEA/EU family members** may need to also provide proof of their right to join you in Scotland in order to receive free treatment, for example, an EEA family permit.<sup>6</sup>

### What will my rights be during the Brexit transition period (Brexit Day\* to 31 December 2020)?

- The UK and the EU have reached agreement in principle that there will be no change to your rights during the Brexit transition period.
- They have also agreed that EEA/EU citizens arriving during this period will enjoy the same rights as those who arrived before Brexit.
- However, the transition period will only come into effect if the **withdrawal agreement** is ratified by both the EU and the UK before 31 October 2019.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nhsinform.scot/publications/healthcare-for-people-coming-to-scotland-to-work-factsheet>

## What will my rights be after the transition period (after 1 January 2021)?

- Your rights to NHS services after the transition period are not yet clear. They will be negotiated between the EU and the UK during the transition period.

### How can I find out more?

- **For information about health conditions and services, phone the NHS inform Helpline on 0800 22 44 88 (textphone 18001 0800 22 44 88; the helpline also provides an interpreting service). The helpline is open every day between 8am and 10pm.**
- **Contact the Patient Advice & Support Service (PASS) at your local citizen's advice bureau** (find your nearest bureau on the internet at [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk) or in your local phone book). PASS is independent and provides free, confidential information, advice and support to anyone who uses the NHS in Scotland.

Last Updated April 2019

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Funded by the Legal Education Foundation.



\* If the draft withdrawal agreement between EU and UK is approved by the UK Parliament or an alternative deal is agreed by 31 October 2019, a specific date will be designated as Brexit Day. If 'no deal' is agreed by 31 October 2019, the 31 October will be Brexit Day.