

Healthcare in Sweden if you come from another country

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Interpretation into your language

You can get help from an interpreter if you do not speak Swedish. Let the healthcare provider know you need an interpreter when you book your appointment.

Patient Confidentiality in Healthcare

In Sweden, all healthcare personnel are sworn to confidentiality. This means that they are not allowed to share any information about you outside the healthcare center without your permission. This applies to all staff you meet in healthcare, including interpreters and staff at pharmacies. When you seek care, you need to state your name, address, which country you are registered in and if you have applied for a permit to stay in Sweden.

More information about Swedish healthcare
Scan the QR code with your mobile phone to read more about Swedish healthcare. On the page, the information is translated into several different languages.



If you plan to seek medical treatment

When you travel to Sweden for planned treatment, different rules apply.

If you come from a EU/EEA country, Switzerland or UK

If you are insured and registered in an EU/EEA country, Switzerland or UK you will need a special certificate called S2. You will then pay the same fees as people insured in Sweden. You can apply for the certificate from your country's equivalent to the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan).

Some people may need to apply for reimbursement of the money afterwards

If you are insured in an EU/EEA country, Switzerland or UK, you can apply for planned treatment in Sweden and pay for the treatment yourself. In such case you can apply for reimbursement of the money from your home country. You may need a prior permission from the country where you are insured and registered.

The rules for how much you can be reimbursed differ from country to country.

If you plan to stay in Sweden

If you have applied for or received a residence or work permit and need healthcare before you have registered at the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket) you will in most cases have to pay the full cost for healthcare yourself. If you are a resident in an EU/EEA country or Switzerland you can apply for a certificate from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan). This certificate gives you the right to pay the same fees as people insured in Sweden.

If you come from a country outside of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, UK

Most people who come from a country outside of the EU, EEA, Switzerland or UK will have to pay the full cost themselves if they need healthcare services in Sweden. This applies to emergency, necessary, and planned care. The EEA includes:

- Norway
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein.

Sweden has an agreement with some countries

Sweden has a special agreement with some countries regarding healthcare. People from these countries pay the same amount for certain types of healthcare services as people insured in Sweden. Countries with an agreement are:

- Australia
- Algeria
- Israel
- Turkey
- the state of Quebec in Canada.



Healthcare in Sweden if you come from another country

In Sweden, you always have the right to emergency care. This is true even if you come from another country and become ill while you are in Sweden. How much you will have to pay depends, among other things, on which country you are from. In some cases, you have to pay the full cost yourself.

Emergency care

You always have the right to receive care in urgent situations, for example if you get a serious infection or if you break a bone and need to be fitted with a plaster cast. The fees for emergency care differs depending on which country you are insured and registered in and if you are able to provide necessary documents that gives you the right to a lower fee.

Necessary care

Another type of care is called necessary care. This includes care for conditions such as a chronic disease that you have your whole life.

You have the right to necessary care if you are insured in an EU/EEA country, Switzerland, UK or Australia. Being insured in a country means that you are covered by that country's social insurance system.

It is the healthcare staff that assess the level of care that you need.

If you travel to Sweden in order to seek healthcare it is called planned care and other conditions apply.



How much does healthcare cost in Sweden?

The cost of healthcare services depends on which country you are registered in. There are different rules for different countries.

The Nordic countries

If you are registered and live in a Nordic country, you pay the same amount for emergency and necessary care as people insured in Sweden. The Nordic countries are:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Norway
- Faroe Islands
- Greenland
- Iceland.

You will need to show an ID card and provide your home address. You can also show your European health insurance card. If you are not able to show any of these you will be charged the full cost for the care that you have received.



EU/EEA countries including Switzerland and UK

If you are insured in any of the following countries, you pay the same amount for emergency and necessary care as people insured in Sweden:

- an EU or EEA country
- UK
- Switzerland.

European Health Insurance Card = EU card

You will need to show a European Health Insurance Card. It may also be called an EU card or GHIC/EHIC-card. If you are not able to show any of these you will be charged the full cost for the care that you have received.

You order the European Health Insurance Card from the country in which you are insured. Children must also have an EU card.

Apply for reimbursement of the money afterwards

You can also pay the full cost of the healthcare services yourself, and then apply for compensation for fees that you have paid for from your home country.

Cross-border worker

If you work in Sweden and are insured in an EU country, an EEA country or Switzerland you have the right to both necessary and planned care in the same way as those who are insured in Sweden. You will need to show a special certificate from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan).

Students

Students who are in Sweden for less than twelve months have the right to necessary care on the same terms as those who are insured in Sweden. You must show your EU card. Students who are in Sweden for more than twelve months must register at the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket). Then you have the right to healthcare in the same way as those who are insured and registered in Sweden.