Travelling in Europe?

Make sure you get your EHIC (the new E111)

NHS

If you're travelling in Europe, make sure you've got a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) as well as travel insurance. An EHIC is free, and it could save you a lot of money – and hassle – if you need medical help while you're away. The EHIC is the replacement for the E111 form which stopped being issued on 31 August 2005, although they remain valid until 31 December 2005.

The EHIC is valid in:

Austria	France	Latvia	Poland
Belgium	Germany	Liechtenstein	Portugal
Cyprus	Greece	Lithuania	Slovakia
Czech Republic	Hungary	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Denmark	Iceland	Malta	Spain
Estonia	Ireland	The Netherlands	Sweden
Finland	Italy	Norway	Switzerland

Why do I need an EHIC?

Having an EHIC card means you can get reduced cost, sometimes free, medical treatment if it becomes necessary while you're in any of the European countries listed here. It also covers you for treatment for chronic illnesses (like diabetes), maternity care, and things like kidney dialysis and oxygen therapy (by prior arrangement).

What about my travel insurance?

By itself, your travel insurance might not be enough to cover your medical care while you're away; and some travel insurance policies aren't valid without an EHIC. Your EHIC can also save you money when the cost of the treatment is below the excess on the insurance policy. If you do have to claim on your insurance, some companies will waive the excess if an EHIC has been used. But it is still advisable to have both: travel insurance covers some things the EHIC doesn't cover, such as repatriation to the UK.

I requested an EHIC when I filled out the application form for the new E111, but haven't received it yet. Do I need to apply again?

Don't worry if your EHIC hasn't arrived yet. You'll get it before your E111 expires on 31 December 2005. If you haven't received it by the end of November, then please give us a call on 0845 605 0707.

How do I get an EHIC?

The quickest and easiest way to apply for an EHIC is online at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers

Your card will be delivered within seven days.

Alternatively, you can apply:

- by calling 0845 606 2030 – your card will be delivered within 10 days; or
- by post, using the form and pre-addressed envelope available from your local Post Office® branch – your card will be delivered within 21 days.

The EHIC is issued free of charge.

- **Don't forget: if you're planning a trip in Europe, make sure you have got the EHIC.**
- **An EHIC entitles you to reduced-cost, sometimes free, medical care in most European countries.**
- **If you have already got an E111, this is only valid until 31 December 2005.**
- **For more information, go to www.dh.gov.uk/travellers**
- **If you have friends who make trips to Europe, pass on the information in this leaflet.**

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