

9.08 Medical Arrangements at Post

This policy describes what provision is made for you and your family when you are undertaking an overseas posting and medical attention is required.

- Prior to posting you should obtain medical clearance and copies of required documentation – Section 2
- Normally medical treatment will be provided and paid for by your department – Section 3.1
- If it is necessary to have private treatment, only essential treatment should be undertaken without further approval - Section 3.3
- Provision is made for necessary dental treatment while abroad – Section 4

The following terms within this policy are defined in the glossary:

Family.

You may also be interested in the following policies:

8.07 Pay for Overseas Postings, 9.04 General Guidance on Overseas Posting, 9.06 Administrative Arrangements for Overseas Posting, 9.07 Other Allowances and Grants or Overseas Posts, 9.09 Overseas Subsistence Allowance, 9.10 Overseas Posting and Travel, 9.11 Cost of Living Addition for Overseas Posts, 9.12 Financial Liabilities of Staff Who Leave Overseas Post Early

This policy is version 1.0

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This homepage is only a guide to the policy, not the policy itself. In the event of any discrepancy between the content of this homepage and the associated policy, the wording of the policy shall apply.

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9.08 Medical Arrangements at Post

1 Introduction

Departments will ensure that, as far as possible, you and your family who accompany you at public expense, who require medical, dental or ophthalmic treatment whilst abroad are able to receive treatment on the same basis as is obtainable under the National Health Service in Northern Ireland and subject to the same charges. Family members who visit you at public expense are also covered for essential treatment.

You and your family are expected, where possible, to arrange medical, dental and ophthalmic treatment to coincide with journeys home on leave. You will not normally be entitled to treatment at public expense within three months of arrival and departure except for an emergency, for example for the relief of pain.

2 Arrangements Prior To Posting

2.1 As outlined in the policy Administrative Arrangements for Overseas Postings, you and members of your household must obtain medical and dental clearance before travelling abroad. Where appropriate, ophthalmic clearance should also be obtained. Family members not accompanying you should be included for medical clearance if they will be visiting you at the overseas post and are entitled to travel at public expense.

2.2 When going to work in Europe you should ensure that you and each accompanying member of your household have an up to date European Health Insurance card (previously E111).

3 Medical Treatment Abroad

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 When available, Crown medical services should normally be used and paid for by your employing Department. In the absence of Crown Medical facilities you should, where possible, use a doctor or dentist from the FCO panel list. Information can be obtained from the British Embassy, High Commission or local consulate at the overseas location.

3.2 Reciprocal Medical Arrangements

3.2.1 Special arrangements exist with a number of countries whereby you may take advantage of free medical treatment, or reimbursement of medical expenses, in accordance with the provisions applicable to nationals of the country concerned. Whenever

practicable, full use should be made of such facilities. Departments will ensure that you are informed of these arrangements and complete the necessary documentation. Further information may be obtained from the Benefits Agency at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

3.3 Private Medical Arrangements

3.3.1 Where no Crown medical services exist and where there is no reciprocal agreement with the country concerned, you may make your own arrangements with a private doctor or hospital. If you are in this position you should submit a statement of expenditure incurred, supported by receipts to your employing Department. The Department will reimburse all reasonable expenses.

3.3.2 If you or a dependent requires treatment that may incur substantial expenditure you should, where possible, seek advice from your Department before obtaining treatment. If urgency does not make this possible, repayment is normally permitted, provided that the Department is satisfied that the treatment and expenditure was justified. In some cases it may be appropriate for treatment to wait until you are next in Northern Ireland.

3.3.3 Only treatment available under the NHS is allowable. If in doubt about a particular type of treatment you should consult your Department.

3.4 Medical and Compassionate Journeys to Northern Ireland

3.4.1 The rules relating to medical and compassionate journeys to Northern Ireland can be found within the 'Overseas Posting and Travel' section of the Handbook.

4 Dental Treatment Abroad

4.1 Only treatment up to the standard available on the NHS is eligible for reimbursement. Standards vary from country to country, therefore, most dentists' treatment plans need to be referred to your Department for approval before commencement.

4.2 Routine treatment may begin without the approval of your Department and may be considered to include check-ups, scaling and cleaning, straightforward extractions, amalgam or white synthetic fillings and the provision of plastic/acrylic/synthetic resin dentures. Any treatment in excess of this should not begin without the prior approval of your Department. This does not apply to emergency treatment, however, a follow-up treatment plan must be referred as soon as possible.

4.3 Reimbursement is limited to the amount over and above the notional NHS charge for the treatment received.

5 Ophthalmic Treatment Abroad

5.1 Adults

5.1.1 Complex/powerful lenses only qualify for reimbursement of the relevant NHS allowance. Should you be suffering from Diabetes Mellitus, Glaucoma, or the like you are entitled to the cost of your eyesight tests.

5.2 Children

5.2.1 Any children who are resident at your overseas post qualify for equivalent NHS treatment if they are under 16 years of age, or over 16 but under 19 and still in full-time education.