

S3 — Medical treatment for former cross-border worker in former country of work



Information about the S3 form and its use

1. The S3 form

The S3 form can be issued to you (and your family members) only if you are a former cross-border worker resident in an EU country⁽¹⁾ having worked as a cross-border worker in another country. It provides proof of your entitlement (or for your family members) to certain medical treatment in the country you used to work in.

2. Where and when to obtain your S3 form

In order to register for treatment in the country of the last activity as a cross-border worker (or his/her family member), you should obtain the form S3 from the competent healthcare institution⁽²⁾. It is the institution which bears the financial costs of your healthcare.

3. Use of the S3 form

You should present your S3 to the appropriate healthcare institution in the country of your last activity as a cross-border worker (or his/her family member).

A full list of institutions in both the issuing and host countries can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social-security-directory>.

4. Treatment provided

Treatment will be provided under the same conditions of care and payment as to insured persons of that country. This could mean you have to pay a part of the costs upfront.

5. What treatment are you, as a former cross-border worker and your family members, entitled to receive in the former country of employment on the basis of the S3 form?

a. Continuation of treatment

You are entitled to receive treatment in your former country of employment in so far as this treatment is a continuation of treatment which began in that country.

This also applies to members of your family unless the country where you last worked is one of the following: Denmark, Estonia*, Ireland, Spain*, Italy*, Lithuania*, Hungary*, Netherlands* Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom (countries marked "*" will lift this restriction after 1 May 2014).

b. New treatment

If in the five years preceding the effective date of your old-age or invalidity pension you were working for at least two years as a cross-border worker, you will be entitled to health treatment in the country in which you worked. This only applies if the country in which you last worked, and the country where you live are both in the following list: Belgium, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg, Austria and Portugal.

This also applies to members of your family unless the country where you last worked is Spain (which will lift this restriction after 1 May 2014). You are advised to check the position regarding your family members with the healthcare institution in your country of residence.

⁽¹⁾ In the following text, the terms "EU Country" or "EU Member State" will also refer to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland as soon as Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 become applicable to them.

⁽²⁾ In Spain, the form is issued by the Provincial Head Office of the National Institute for Social Security or, if appropriate, by the Social Institute for Mariners. In Portugal, the form is issued by the social security institution of the place of residence.