

QUICK GUIDE TO HEALTHCARE OPTIONS FOR FOREIGNERS IN SPAIN



How the Spanish healthcare system works

If you plan to visit Spain or move there permanently, you should first understand the **healthcare system** and how it might differ from that of your home country. Public healthcare in Spain is excellent, but you might find that private healthcare is the best option for you.

Here is a guide to the two options, and some tips you might find useful!

If you find yourself in a life-threatening situation whilst in Spain, you should call 112.

If you plan to live or work in Spain, make sure you register with the Spanish authorities.



EU members and non-members



If you hold an EHIC and are staying temporarily, you can access public healthcare at a reduced price, or sometimes free. For more information, visit [Spanish health ministry's website](#) (information also available in English).

There is also the option to take out [private health insurance](#), which covers everything and avoids any unforeseen possibility.

UK citizens who have proof of their healthcare rights in their country will not have to pay for healthcare in Spain. Assistance costs will be at Spain or UK expenses which will reimburse the payment to the Spanish state. Learn more about it [here](#).

EU, EEA, UK and Swiss nationals who are of retirement age in their country of origin are able to access free healthcare in Spain, but must first obtain an S1 form from their country of residence.

Non-EU/EEA nationals might have to prove that they have private health insurance in Spain before being granted a Spanish visa.

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*Source: Ministerio de sanidad, consumo y bienestar social. April 2019.

Public healthcare

If you are going to make national insurance contributions in Spain, you'll be entitled to state-run healthcare. For further information, visit the [Seguridad Social website](#) (information available in English).

To gain access to the public healthcare system (*Sistema Nacional de Salud*), you will need to:

- ☐ Get a social security card at the Social Security Treasury Office (Tesorería de la Seguridad Social).
- ☐ Get a medical card at their local clinic.

Non-residents do not qualify for public healthcare, but there is a pay-in scheme, called the **Convenio Especial**:

- ☐ 60€ a month (for under 65s) and 157€ a month (for over 65s).
- ☐ Provides same level of access to healthcare as Spanish residents.
- ☐ Does not include the cost of prescription medicines, and not available in Andalusia.



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*Source: Ministerio de trabajo, migraciones y seguridad social. April 2019.

Private healthcare

If you want to get a NIE, the easiest way could be through taking out private health insurance. With **Caser Adapta + Sonrisa Esencial insurance** (which doesn't have copayments), you will be able to obtain your NIE without any issues.

Private healthcare in Spain gives you access to more options (you can choose the specialist you see, avoid the queues that exist in the public system, etc.).

There are hundreds of private hospitals and clinics in Spain, so the private system is very accessible.

We recommend that you take out private health insurance if you plan to use private care regularly, as the cost can escalate rapidly.



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*Please note that the information in the guide may have been updated since its creation. April 2019.



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