

# Healthcare in the UK

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# What will we be covering?

- How UK healthcare system is organised: GP surgeries/ medical centres, hospital treatment, emergency treatment.
- Registering with a GP.
- Medication.
- Vaccinations.
- What to do in a medical emergency.
- 'Walk-In' Centres
- Dentists and opticians.



# National Health Service

- + NHS is the UK state healthcare system.
- + Some services are free for everyone.
- + Some services are free depending on your eligibility.
- + Some services are subsidised, which means the NHS pays some money towards them and you pay the rest.



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# How the NHS is organised

**General Practitioner (GP)** : first point of contact for (non-emergency) medical treatment.

Anyone in England can register and consult with a GP without charge.

GP will refer you to relevant **hospital department** for specialist treatment.

This treatment is free or chargeable depending on your circumstances.

**Emergency medical treatment** (not including dental) is free for everyone and accessed via a hospital accident and emergency (A&E) department or UK emergency services.



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# Medical treatment that is free for everyone

- Treatment in an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department (as long as you are not admitted as an in-patient and do not access follow-up treatment); does not include emergency dental treatment.
- Family planning (contraceptive).
- Treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Diagnosis and treatment of certain infectious diseases (i.e. TB).
- Diagnosis and treatment of COVID within an NHS setting.
- Compulsory psychiatric treatment /treatment that has been ordered by a court.

[UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Health and healthcare](#)



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# General Practitioner (GP)

- Main contact for healthcare in the UK.
- Can treat most illnesses.
- Can prescribe medication for you to collect from a pharmacy. This is subsidised by the NHS but you have to pay a fee - £9.35 per item.
- Will refer you for specialist treatment at a hospital if needed.
- Based in the community in GP Surgeries or Medical Centres.

## Register with a GP

**University linked medical centres in Cockcroft Building Moulsecoomb campus.**

**Details of this and other local medical centres in Brighton and Eastbourne: [Health \(brighton.ac.uk\)](http://brighton.ac.uk/health)**



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# Medication

Two kinds: 'over the counter' and prescription.

A large range of medication is available from a pharmacy without a prescription from a doctor.

Some medication is only available if it has been prescribed by your GP or another doctor e.g. antibiotics, strong pain killers.

There is a standard charge for prescriptions: £9.35 per item.

If you have more than one regular prescription each month you can save money with a prescription pre-payment certificate: £30.25 for 3 months, £108.10 for 12 months.



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# Hospital treatment

If you need specialist treatment you will be referred by your GP to the appropriate hospital department.

You will be treated as an outpatient (where you go to an appointment or appointments) or an inpatient (where you stay in hospital for treatment).



# Who is eligible for free hospital treatment in the UK?

Eligibility for free hospital treatment depends on your personal circumstances:

- Student route/ student route visitor visas for more than 6 months: as you will have paid the immigration health surcharge when you made your application.
- From a country with a reciprocal healthcare agreement with the UK.
- Students with a Standard Visitor visa can only receive the services that are free for everyone, you will need to pay for any other services so you must arrange medical insurance from your own country.
- Short-term visitors from the EU can continue to access medically necessary treatment if you hold a valid EU-issued EHIC, or Norwegian passport.
- Citizens of Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland may need to pay for any NHS healthcare your receive – must arrange medical insurance from own country.



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# Vaccinations

There are no compulsory vaccinations in the UK.

Recommended:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Meningitis ACWY
- COVID 19



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## Accident and Emergency Department (A&E)

- A&E departments in many hospitals in the UK.
- Open 24/7.
- Walk in service.
- Report to reception when you arrive to say what your injury / issue is.
- Will then be triaged – seen by medical staff based on seriousness of your injury.
- A&E is extremely busy in the UK, unless your injury is very serious you should expect to wait at least several hours to be seen.
- Unless you are seeking treatment for a severe injury/ medical emergency you will need to arrange your own transport.

Brighton: Royal Sussex County Hospital  
Eastern Road, BN2 5BE



Eastbourne District General Hospital  
Kings Drive, BN21 2UD



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# What to do in a medical emergency

*An acute illness or injury that poses and immediate risk to a person's life or long term health.*

Call 999 or 122.

The call is free.

Ask for an ambulance.

Be ready to tell the operator:

where you are

what has happened

Like all emergency treatment in the UK, there is no charge for receiving treatment/ help from an ambulance.



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# Walk-In Centres and 111

111 – advice on non-emergency medical issues [Get medical help - NHS 111](#)

## Walk-In Centres

Treatment, information and advice for a range of minor illnesses and injuries.

Open 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.

Practice Plus Brighton Station

[Walk-in services | Brighton Station Health Centre \(practiceplusbrightonstation.nhs.uk\)](#)

Eastbourne Station Health Centre

[Overview - Eastbourne Station Health Centre - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



# Dental Care

NHS provides medically necessary (i.e. not cosmetic) dental treatment. This is subsidised by the NHS and there are three set fees depending on what 'band' it is in.

## **Band 1: £23.80**

Examination, diagnosis and advice, x-rays and scale and polish (if medically necessary).

## **Band 2: £65.20**

All treatment in band 1, plus additional treatment such as fillings, root canal treatment, and extractions (removing a tooth or teeth).

## **Band 3: £282.80**

All treatments in bands 1 & 2 plus more complex procedures such as bridges or crowns.

[Understanding NHS dental charges - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[Free only in very specific circumstances: Who is entitled to free NHS dental treatment in England? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



Details of how to register with a dentist, and how to access dental care in an emergency:

[Register with a dentist \(brighton.ac.uk\)](http://brighton.ac.uk)



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# Opticians

There are a number of opticians on the high streets in Brighton and Eastbourne: Spec Savers, Vision Express, Boots, as well as smaller practices.

The cosy of a sight test and glasses or contact lenses are only covered by the NHS in very specific circumstances, so in most cases you will need to pay the full price for these.

[Free NHS eye tests and optical vouchers - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



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# Queries?

+ For queries about the UK healthcare system, including eligibility for free or subsidised NHS treatment please contact International Student Advice:

+ [Internationaladvice@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:Internationaladvice@brighton.ac.uk)

+ 01273 642888



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# Questions?



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