

General information and guidance for completing an S2 (E112) application form for treatment outside Northern Ireland in an EEA country

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This guidance has two sections:

- [Section 1: General supporting information](#)
- [Section 2: Further information to help complete specific S2 Application Form sections](#)

Section 1 - General

In choosing to access healthcare in an EEA member state, the home patient is effectively stepping outside of the Health and Social Care (HSC) system and using their rights under Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the European Union and the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, known as the S2 route, to seek healthcare elsewhere.

At this point, the patient is taking individual responsibility for ensuring that the service they obtain is appropriate and safe within the laws of the country of treatment (not under UK legislation). The HSC, under this legislation, will not be formally commissioning services from providers abroad and therefore will not be liable for the outcome of the treatment provided.

Although the HSC may approve your treatment abroad, the country you want to go to is not obliged to accept you as a patient for treatment. If you are refused treatment in an EEA member state, they will have to explain their decision to refuse treatment.

You cannot expect to receive treatment in preference to a patient already within the country's state healthcare system. This means you may have to observe local waiting times or the country's guidance on particular treatments.

The S2 Form is for UK (Northern Ireland) residents, who are requesting treatment in an EU (Non-UK) country.

Do not use this form if you have a UK issued S1 and live in another EU (Non-UK) country. There is a separate form and guidance for this.

Find out more on the NHS Website searching for 'Healthcare abroad' at:
<https://nhs.uk/>

S2 application route (PLANNED treatments) key points:

- Treatment “Provider” must be in the EU:
 - The EU countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland*, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
Note: This scheme does not necessarily cover planned treatment in Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland or Switzerland. Please contact england.europeanhealthcare@nhs.net before you apply for treatment in these countries to check eligibility.
- The application form can be completed by a person other than the patient, if necessary (e.g. a family member or a clinician). However, all the information provided should be about the patient. Parts 7 and 8 of the form require the applicant to provide their details, if they are applying on behalf of the patient.
- We can only communicate with the patient / applicant about the application, unless we have the written consent from the patient regarding anyone else, they wish us to communicate with.
- The patient / applicant is responsible for providing accurate and complete information within and supporting the application. This will form the basis of the decision-making process.
- Incomplete / inaccurate applications cannot be processed and may delay funding decisions.
- Depending on the complexities of the individual case, it may be necessary to request further information for an application in order for it to be assessed fully and correctly.
- The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) of the Department of Health cannot accept responsibility for documents lost in transit.
- Applicants are required to provide their own translations of documents when submitting documents/letters not in English.
- Applications for Maternity S2 funding must be made directly to the NHSBSA, (not HSC (NI)) – for further information go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/going-abroad-for-treatment/giving-birth-outside-the-uk/>
- Applications must be authorised BEFORE treatment. The HSC (NI) will not consider retrospective applications.

- The treatment must be available to the patient under the Health & Social Care system in Northern Ireland and must also be available under the treating country's state healthcare scheme.
- There must be written support from a Northern Ireland Consultant, which following their full medical assessment, supports the diagnosis, treatment and medical timeframe necessary for the treatment the patient wants funding for.
- The supporting Northern Ireland clinician's evidence / letter must be on official letterhead and should not be more than 6 months older than the treatment start date.
- If the application is made on the ground of undue delay for local treatment within Northern Ireland, we require confirmation from your local NHS Consultant that the waiting time is clinically inappropriate based on his/her objective assessment of your individual clinical needs. The HSC commissioner is contacted by the (European Cross Border Healthcare (ECBH) team to provide this information.
- There must be written confirmation from an EU clinician / provider:
 - planned treatment dates and estimated costs.
 - that they will accept an S2 form to fund the treatment(s).
 - S2s cannot be considered for the clinical trial or experimental part of any treatment package.
- The patient does not pay for eligible treatment costs (apart from any required co-payment costs which would be charged to a person insured within that system, which the patient must pay).
- S2s cannot be issued / approved if any of the treatment costs have already been paid for (unless the payments relates to the co-payment charge).
- Find out more on the NHS Website searching for 'Healthcare abroad' at: <https://nhs.uk/>

S2 form issue

S2 forms will only be issued for a treatment period of up to 3 months at a time. Extensions / continuation applications can be made and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

S2s will not normally be approved more than 3 months in advance of the treatment date, to ensure that the eligibility evidence is current.

An S2 form can only cover one treatment provider. If you need treatment at more than one treatment provider then you will need separate S2 forms to be approved for each provider.

If the patient is asked to pay a co-payment charge, this will be in accordance with local residence requirements of the member state and is normal practice. The NHSBSA will be able to advise if the patient is eligible for a refund from them (this is not the responsibility of the SPPG in Northern Ireland). All other eligible treatment costs should be covered by the S2 form.

Treatments available on the NHS (NHS Entitlement)

If a patient is unsure whether a treatment would be available to them in Northern Ireland, they can contact the SPPG directly for further advice before applying for funding.

Section 2 - Help to complete the application form sections

Part 1: S2 Funding Route

- Only apply before treatment which has not taken place as Prior Approval is required. Also note that there are 20 working days for a decision to be made.
- Confirm that the planned treatment is in the state healthcare sector.
- Confirm the country that treatment is planned in and that it is eligible (see previous list).
- Only apply using this form if you are ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland and do not have a UK issued S1

Part 2: Patient Details

Please complete all necessary information including your permanent address of residence in Northern Ireland. You may be asked for further documentation to proof residency, eg passport or driver licence, a household bill and bank details.

Only provide an alternative address if for some reason you are not currently living at your permanent Northern Ireland residence.

Part 3: Treating Clinician / Provider Details

Please provide details of the location where the treatment is to be provided and the treating clinician.

Please do not record the details of the hospitals or clinicians that have been treating you under the NHS in Northern Ireland.

Part 4: Treatment Details

Record the diagnosis and treatment plan for the S2 funding application, supported by eligibility evidence, for the medical treatments, as follows:

- A Northern Ireland Consultant's letter / report confirming the diagnosis and medical need for the treatment(s).
- These should be dated no more than 6 months prior to the planned treatment date.
- For Undue Delay: Written confirmation from a Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Consultant that the waiting time is clinically inappropriate based on his/her objective assessment of your individual clinical needs and which states how soon you need your treatment.
- Written confirmation from the provider that (1) they will accept an S2, (2) planned treatment dates, (3) estimated costs.
- Provide some brief detail on the patient's local treatment

Part 5: Supporting relevant information

Detail any further clinical or other documentation that has been submitted with the application.

Part 6, 7, 8 and 9: Declarations by the Patient and/or Applicant

Declarations must be read and signed.

Part 10: Checklist

- Tick the checklist to ensure the application has been fully completed and submitted with the required documentation.
- Applications will not be processed until all of the necessary supporting information has been received.
- Incomplete applications will be put on hold and not processed until complete.
- Provide a security question and answer for verification.

Application Form

[Download the S2 \(E112\) application form for treatment outside Northern Ireland in an EEA country.](#)

If you require this guidance or the S2 Application form in an alternative format please contact:

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