

# EU CITIZENS - HEALTH INSURANCE

If you are an EU Member citizen or an EEA country citizen or you are of Swiss nationality, you should have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC, Italian acronym: TEAM) issued from the national healthcare authority in your home country.

With that card, you are automatically covered in all EU member countries. Please before leaving make sure that you hold an EHIC. If you do not have one, go to the competent Health Institution in your country to ask for an extension of your health insurance coverage to Italy.

## IF YOU ARE STAYING LESS THAN 3 MONTHS

Nationals from the EU Member States, EEA countries or Switzerland who hold EHIC are covered for emergencies and medical care by a general practitioner (family doctor). A patient contribution is required for prescriptions, medical examinations. If you need medical assistance, you can contact the local health authorities "Azienda Sanitaria Locale - ASL" and SSN hospitals. Please note that you will be asked to show your EHIC. Remember to have your EHIC always with you. If you stay in Italy less than 3 months, please note that you are not entitled to register with the SSN.

## IF YOU ARE STAYING MORE THAN 3 MONTHS

According to European Law you can stay in Italy more than 3 months with your European Health Insurance Card. The EHIC remains valid for the length of the stay in Italy (only if you DO NOT move your permanent residency to Italy) and covers only emergencies and medical care by a general practitioner (family doctor).

Otherwise you can register with the SSN by submitting your application at the ASL, ONLY if you have Form E106 (or S1) or E109 (or S1) form. You need first to be registered at the Ufficio Anagrafe (Anagrafe of citizens temporarily present or permanent resident) in Pisa.

The following documents are needed to be entitled to public healthcare services:

- Passport or valid ID;
- Tax identification number (Codice Fiscale);
- Temporary Anagrafe registration receipt or Certificate of permanent residence (or the request thereof submitted to the municipal Anagrafe office);
- Letter or statement of the study programme;
- Form E 106 (or S1) or Form E109 (or S1).

## WHAT IS FORM E106 (OR S1)?

E106 or S1 certifies entitlement to health benefits in a country other than the one in which the person concerned is normally or was previously insured. Before leaving, remember to go to your local health insurance institution and request an E106 or S1 for Italy.

## WHAT IS FORM E109 (OR S1)?

E109 or S1 certifies entitlement to health benefits in a country other than the one in which the person concerned is normally or was previously insured. E109 or S1 can be issued by your local health insurance institution only if you are dependent on your family's financial support.

#### ITALIAN HEALTH INSURANCE (SSN)

If you are going to stay in Italy for more than 3 months and you do not have E106 or E109 or S1 Form from the Health organization in your country of origins and you are also not registered with the National Health System in your country, then you must underwrite a health insurance policy (either in your country of origin or in Italy) which covers all risks (maternity included). Please note that a private health insurance does not mean you may automatically benefit from the SSN services but only that the insurance company will cover your medical fees.

Please, be informed that your insurance must meet the following requirements:

- have a geographical scope including all of Italy
- provide full coverage for healthcare risks
- have a one-year duration with a validity and expiry date
- cover also dependent family members, specifying up to what degree of relationship
- specify what formalities the underwriter must comply with to be refunded.

Please note that according to the European Union regulations, the European Health Card is not a valid means to prove your Health Coverage for stays longer than 90 days.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ACCESSING THE SSN?

Being registered with the SSN entitles you to the same benefits as Italian citizens. In particular the SSN provides:

- hospitalisation and treatment (including tests, surgical operation and medication during hospitalisation);
- basic medical care (General Practitioners and paediatricians);
- specialist medical care by paediatricians, midwives and other specialist doctors;
- medication at a discounted price;
- laboratory tests, aids and devices;
- ambulance service and other free services provided by the local healthcare authority (e.g. family planning clinics).

People covered by the SSN are entitled to either free or subsidised medication. Any inpatient treatment, i.e. any hospitalisation is free and covered by the national healthcare system.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

In the case of an emergency you should call 113 or the European emergency number 112. Police officers will answer 113 calls, but you can also make a request for an ambulance or ask for the fire department if

needed.

Emergency doctor (Guardia Medica): You can get free out of hours medical assistance by calling the local Guardia Medica, via Garibaldi n. 198, Pisa (the telephone number for Pisa is: +39 050 959866). A doctor will be available to give advice, and if necessary, will visit the patient at home.

118: The medical emergency number. For emergency medical care (emergency ambulance), dial 118. This free service is available 24 hours a day, throughout the year.

ER or casualty departments (Pronto Soccorso) are available at all hospitals throughout Italy. Please note that they do not operate on a first-come first-served basis but on the basis of the health condition of the patient.

Hospitals. Where the need is considered urgent, the doctor at the ER will make an immediate hospital admission. Hospitalisation expenses are paid for by the National Health Service (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale - SSN).