

## FACT SHEET 10



Charity No. 2985

**Torre Vieja Office:**  
Rambla Juan Mateo Garcia 4, Torre Vieja 03181, Alicante  
Telephone: 965 704 282 (24 Hr.)

**San Miguel Centre:**  
Calle Lope de Vega 45, San Miguel de Salinas 03193, Alicante  
Telephone: 966 723 733  
[www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com) E-mail [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com)

Providing support and information to the English speaking community from Pilar along the coast through Torre Vieja to La Marina Urb. and inland to Orihuela and Albuera

### Obtaining a Health Card

British Citizens who have retired and receive a U.K. state pension, Bereavement benefits or long term Incapacity Benefit / Employment Support Allowance from the UK can apply for a SIP card . The process for applying for a health card varies according to the circumstances of the individual but generally speaking, there are 5 main categories. This fact sheet does not provide information on those who are self employed or in paid employment.

#### **Group 1 - PENSIONERS - S1 form - ( Previously E121 )**

Those who have reached the UK official retirement age and are therefore entitled to a retirement pension from the Department of Works and Pensions in Newcastle should apply for their Spanish Health Card using form S1. ( previously E121 ) If you were not sent one when you received your pension documents you should telephone Newcastle on 0044 191 218 7777 and ask for one. They will need to know your UK National Insurance Number and other relevant details. Two copies of the S1 will be issued for each person requesting a form, being applicant or dependant.

Take your passport, padron certificate, residencia certificate or card and form S1 to the 'INSS' social security office in Orihuela and register your application for a Spanish Medical Card (SIP card). You will be issued with a paper card (Tarjeta de Afiliación).

Take your S1 form and Social Security number to your local Clinic/ Health Centre (salud) where a temporary medical card (called a SIP card ) will be issued. This card will give the name of your doctor on the reverse and will be valid until a permanent plastic card arrives in the post.

#### **Address of Social Security Offices**

Calle Urbano Arreguel 8, TORREVIEJA

Calle San Agustin 20, ORIHUELA

Ave Alicante 2, ELCHE

#### **Group 2 - INCAPACITATED - S1 form - ( Previously E121 )**

The S1 can also be issued to those who are in receipt of a state incapacity benefit. Once again, if you did not ask for a S1 before you came here to live, telephone 0044 191 218 7777

#### **DEPENDENTS**

When you register your S1, you can request the inclusion of a dependant (it will be necessary to provide proof of kinship - marriage/birth certificate, passport). The INSS should then issue form A1 ( previously E107) and send it to Newcastle upon Tyne, requesting separate forms S1 which, on the front page, will bear the name of the pensioner and, on the back page, will bear the name of the dependant. However, if the INSS refuse to issue form A1, the pensioner should contact the DWP directly to request the additional S1 forms. It is essential to inform the Dept Works and Pensions of the full details of any person you want covered by your S1. They will want to know the national insurance number, name and age etc of the person concerned and their relationship with you. This is to ascertain if they are entitled to health cover in their own right or not and also, whether they have a right to be included on your S1. These "dependant" copies of form S1 should be registered at the INSS in the same way as the "pensioner's" copies.

#### **Group 3 – RECENT WORKER IN UK - S1 - ( previously E106 )**

This is the European form that a British person, of working age and living in Spain, requires in order to get state provided health care in Spain.

- In most cases, an S1 is issued to persons who are posted to Spain, to work for a period of 2 years or more, and who continues to pay National Insurance contributions in the UK. In this instance the S1 is issued by:

HM Revenue and Customs. CAR – Residency  
Room BP1301. Benton Park View  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1ZZ  
Tel: 0845 915 4811 From outside the UK: +44 191 203 7010

- In some circumstances, persons under UK State Pension age who move to Spain to live permanently (but not work) could be entitled to an S1P for a limited 2 year period. In this instance the S1 is issued by:

DWP International Pension Centre  
 Room TC001. Tyneview Park. Whitley Road  
 Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1BA  
 Tel: 0191 218 1999

In order to register your S1 you will firstly need to obtain the following:

- i) Certificate of Residence (*Certificado de Residencia*) – available from the local Police station.
- ii) Certificate as a Local Resident (*Certificado de Empadronamiento*) – available from the Local Town Hall (at the *Padrón Office*).
- iii) Photocopies of the above documents.

Take these with both copies of your S1 to your local INSS office. They will retain one copy and return the other copy signed and stamped. This copy can now be used in order to access the healthcare system. You do not need to register with a local GP as is the case with the S1, but simply go along to the doctor as and when you need. However, this may mean that you are not seen by the same doctor every time.

The S1 is valid until the expiry date indicated on the document and a doctor can refuse to treat you if the form has expired. If no end date is specified, the document is valid until the International Pension Centre informs Spain that the service has to end. When visiting the UK you still belong to the NHS and S1 holders should continue to use their UK-issued EHIC, but only when visiting a third member state. One month before the expiry date of your S1, contact the Department of Works and Pensions in the UK and ask for a letter stating that you are no longer entitled to any of the S forms ( this letter will be written in Spanish) Read information given under Group 6 to find out what to do next.

Please note: If you have an S1 and require a European Health Card (EHIC) for travel purposes, you will have to apply to Newcastle to obtain it.

If you have any queries phone (+44 191) 2181999.

#### **Group 4 – DEPENDANTS – A1 - ( Previously E 107 )**

If you are using an S1 form (see above) and have dependants that need to be included, you should ask the INSS (Spanish Social Security Office) to include them. Be ready to produce your marriage certificate or *certificado de convivencia* to prove that you are a couple (the latter is obtainable from the register of *Padrons*' desk in your local Town Hall). The Spanish Social security office will decide whether you are eligible. If the dependant can be included, they will send form A1 ( previously E.107 ) to the D.W.Pensions in the UK to inform them of the fact.

#### **Group 5 – S2 - ( Previously E112 )**

Those who intend to reside in Spain permanently and who are receiving treatment or medication from the UK for a pre-existing and on-going medical condition, should ask for an S2 form. This only entitles bearer to health care for the pre-existing condition. This is not issued automatically because it requires authorisation from the Department of Health.

S2 holders can continue to use their EHIC, even if they are residents, for the period they are covered by their S2.

To apply for an S2 send a letter providing full details and dates when treatment is due, as well as supporting medical evidence from your GP to the following address:

International Pension Centre  
 Medical Benefits Section  
 Room TC001  
 Tyneview Park  
 Newcastle upon Tyne  
 NE98 1BA  
 Tel 0191 21 81 999  
 or +44 191 21 81999 (outside UK)

To the best of our knowledge this information was correct on the date given below.  
 However, rules and regulations can and do change so it is advisable to check with our office that this fact sheet has not been superseded. RG / JULY 2011