Receiving care in France

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF A FRENCH HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME, YOU CAN RECEIVE CARE IN FRANCE:

- for unscheduled treatment (notably in case of emergency): such care must necessarily be covered by a health insurance policy taken out prior to arriving on French soil and valid for the duration of your stay (Art. L 311-1 CESEDA). This policy must be extended if care is provided after the initial duration of your stay.

- for scheduled treatment when said treatment is the main reason for your visit to France: where applicable, this must be indicated to the consular authorities when requesting a visa. In this case, a visa will be granted for medical care.

Such care is at your expense. In some cases, international social security agreements may provide for care to be covered by your country of origin (e.g., posted workers, retirees, etc.) *

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER IN A COUNTRY OF THE EU-EEA-SWITZERLAND *

When on holiday, you can receive cover for unscheduled treatment (notably in case of emergency, accident, dialysis) from the social security scheme of your country of residence. You must present a valid European Health Insurance Card to the hospital providing your care.

When travelling for care (pre-scheduled care), your country of origin will cover your care on presentation of an S2 form (entitlement to scheduled treatment) issued by your fund prior to visiting France. European cards do not cover your expenses and are not accepted by hospitals.

When moving to France, remember to request a certificate of entitlement (S1 form) from your social security fund prior to your departure. Present the form to the CPAM of your place of residence as soon as you arrive in France.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU PAY FOR HEALTHCARE IN FRANCE?

Medical care provided in France is not free.

A portion of these expenses may be covered on provision of a form or European health insurance card*. You must always pay the remaining amount, which will be directly billed to you by the establishment at the end of your stay or visit to the emergency room.

As an indicator, the average cost of an overnight stay in a French hospital is at least:

- for surgery: €1,400
- for obstetrics: €1,200
- for general medicine: €1,100
- for costly specialties (resuscitation): €2,500

The rates for scheduled treatment are provided to you in a quote issued by the hospital establishment on request, prior to your departure. Any outstanding debts in respect of healthcare establishments are reported to consulate authorities and to the other member states in the Schengen area.

* To find out whether you are concerned and which form you should request before leaving, visit the website www.cleiss.fr