

**What NHS treatment can I  
get when I go to the UK?**



# **The Reciprocal Healthcare Arrangement explained**

A guide for Isle of Man  
residents travelling to the  
United Kingdom.

**July 2023**



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

[www.gov.im/rha](http://www.gov.im/rha)

## **What is the Reciprocal Healthcare Arrangement?**

The Isle of Man and United Kingdom (UK) Government have a legal arrangement in place, called the Reciprocal Healthcare Arrangement (RHA), to allow residents access to necessary and emergency healthcare when visiting the UK from the Isle of Man, and vice-versa.

The updated RHA came into force on 19 July 2023.

## **What is necessary and emergency healthcare?**

For the purpose of this RHA, individuals will be eligible for necessary and emergency healthcare where it is medically necessary, in the opinion of the healthcare provider, to provide treatment.

## **When does the RHA apply?**

Individuals are eligible to receive healthcare or treatment under this RHA when:

- The first diagnosis of symptoms happens after the individual's arrival in the UK
- In the opinion of a registered medical or dental practitioner treatment is required promptly for a condition which:
  - happened after the individual's arrival; or
  - became a lot worse after their arrival; or
  - would be likely to become a lot worse without treatment.

## **How long does the RHA cover my stay in the UK?**

Isle of Man residents travelling to the UK, whether visiting for business or leisure purposes, will be eligible to receive necessary and emergency healthcare if they fall ill within six months of arrival.

Individuals who fall ill, when it has been longer than six months since their arrival in the UK, will be liable to pay the healthcare provider for all associated treatment costs.

Isle of Man students attending courses in the UK which last longer than six months will continue to be eligible to receive necessary and emergency healthcare for the duration of their course.

## **Pre-planned treatment**

The RHA allows patients to arrange pre-planned healthcare to support pre-existing conditions, such as kidney dialysis, oxygen therapy, special asthma treatment, echocardiography (in the case of autoimmune disease) when they visit the UK. Patients must, however, contact the relevant health authority in the area they intend to visit to make sure the treatment is available and can be provided.

## **When does the RHA not apply?**

Isle of Man residents travelling to the UK would not be eligible to receive healthcare treatment relating to the routine monitoring of pre-existing conditions unless it is deemed medically necessary to do so.

Private healthcare, or follow-up care resulting from off-island private healthcare, is not covered by the RHA.

Assisted conception services are not covered by the RHA.

## **Do I need to provide any proof of identity when I travel?**

Whilst all Isle of Man residents have an NHS number which makes them identifiable on UK healthcare systems, travelling with photographic ID is recommended as it may be requested by the healthcare provider.

## **Is all healthcare treatment free?**

Necessary and emergency healthcare provided through the RHA within the six month time period will be free of charge, except where charges also apply to UK residents e.g. prescription charges or dental fees.

## **Healthcare insurance**

The RHA only covers necessary and emergency care when Isle of Man residents are in the UK. It does not cover repatriation and you should take out insurance to cover this. You will also need to make arrangements for full healthcare and repatriation insurance cover if you travel outside of the UK, as the Isle of Man has limited Reciprocal Healthcare Arrangements with other countries.

Repatriation is the process of returning you to the island when your normal travel plans have been disrupted by ill health. Repatriation by Air Ambulance can cost over £20,000 from the UK to the Isle of Man.



Scan the QR Code for more information



**Isle of Man**  
Government  
*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

For further details go to **[www.gov.im/rha](http://www.gov.im/rha)** or  
contact **[dhsc@gov.im](mailto:dhsc@gov.im)** or **01624 685816**.

**Department of Health and Social Care,  
Head Office, First Floor, Belgravia House,  
Circular Road, Douglas, IM1 1AE**

The information in this document can be provided in  
large print or audio format upon request.