

SIP CARD SITUATION FOR INCOMEWRS FROM THE UK..

I have checked with Denia Hospital and the British Consulate once again and the current situation is as follows:-

1 If you are of UK pensionable age, legally resident, and on the 'padron' you are eligible for a SIP card which entitles you to healthcare throughout Spain.

2 If you are under UK pensionable age and working on either a contract or contributing under the 'autonimo' (self employed) scheme you are eligible for a SIP card which entitles you to healthcare throughout Spain.

3 If you are under pensionable age, not working but paying into the scheme run by the Comunidad de Valencia (which is in effect a private scheme), the situation is somewhat different. In these circumstances if you are taken ill or have an accident in another province you will potentially face problems as it will require negotiation between the two authorities involved prior to treatment being given. In some circumstances this might result in the patient having to pay. However for these individuals it is possible to access Spanish healthcare providing they hold a residency certificate that was issued prior 24th April 2012.

Individuals who fall into this category will need to obtain what is called a 'legislation' letter from the Overseas Healthcare Team in Newcastle, stating that they do not have the right to UK-funded healthcare. This team can be contacted on 0044 191 218 1999. You will then need to take this document with ID and their current residency certificate to the INSS office with this application from the following link

<http://www.seg-social.es/prdi00/groups/public/documents/binario/46493.pdf>

They may also be asked to provide proof of income which can be obtained from the HM Revenue & Customs.

The INSS will additionally ask for original copies of birth and marriage certificates with an Apostille stamp. These must be obtained from the General Registry Office who can be contacted on 0044 300 123 1837.

This is the up to date and accurate information provided by the British Consulate this morning (9.11.12) who also inform me that the INSS may ask for some additional information dependent on the individual's circumstances, so that I advise that contact is made with the INSS prior to any application being made.

I know that this all sounds complicated and it is if you fall within category 3.... it is also a pretty slow process. If people are having difficulty accessing the application form from the INSS Jalon Valley Help will have copies available Casa de Animo on Tuesday mornings but be warned they are in Spanish!

Elaine Horton