

# Healthcare in Guernsey



Knowing that you and your family's health is in good hands is of paramount importance, so it's good to know that Guernsey has an excellent healthcare system.

Although it is not part of the NHS and there is no reciprocal healthcare arrangement with the UK, Guernsey employs the UK's best practice across its network of medical centres and the Princess Elizabeth Hospital (PEH). It's also reassuring to know that the island is connected to the UK healthcare system for specialist treatment.

## Health Benefits

While Guernsey takes much of what is good about UK healthcare, the island has a different approach to charging.

The healthcare system is partly funded by the Guernsey's Employment and Social Security Committee, with residents paying into an income-related contributions scheme.

You will have to pay for both primary healthcare and emergency treatment in Guernsey, but your Social Security payments will contribute towards these charges, and secondary or specialist healthcare is free of charge.

## “GUERNSEY EMPLOYS THE BEST PRACTICE ACROSS ITS NETWORK OF MEDICAL CENTRES”

This system means that islanders find it easy to get an appointment with their doctor, and the local Accident & Emergency department is efficient.

It's important to register with the Social Security department as soon as you arrive. Once you receive your Health Benefit Card, you'll have access to a wide range of local health benefits, which will cut down on your medical costs.

## Registering with a GP

Guernsey has three GP partnerships, offering access to a total of nine surgeries throughout the island.

**Healthcare Group Guernsey** [www.healthcare.gg](http://www.healthcare.gg)  
**Queen's Road Medical Practice** [www.eqrmp.com](http://www.eqrmp.com)  
**Island Health** [www.islandhealth.co.uk](http://www.islandhealth.co.uk)

## “GUERNSEY HAS AN EXCELLENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM”

## Specialist Care

Secondary or specialist care is delivered via the Medical Specialist Group (MSG) [www.msg.gg](http://www.msg.gg). The MSG's consultants provide the majority of medical services, including surgery, performed at the island's hospital.

## Pharmacies

Guernsey has a number of pharmacies across the island, making access to prescription medication easy.

While you can easily obtain over-the-counter medication, you'll need to see a doctor before the pharmacist can dispense 'prescription-only' medicines. The current charge for prescription medicines is currently capped at £3.80 per item and some residents are exempt from charges – health benefits can also reduce costs.

It's worth bearing in mind that pharmacists can also offer useful advice about minor illnesses and health conditions alongside suitable medication or treatment.

To find out more call: +44 (0)1481 743834  
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## Private Appointments

If you would like to receive private healthcare, you can ask your GP for a referral or go directly to the MSG.

## Emergency Services

Guernsey's Accident & Emergency Department is on site at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital.

It's important to remember that any emergency medical treatment you receive will incur a charge, this includes ambulance call-out.

The Guernsey Ambulance and Rescue Service [www.stjohn.gg/what-we-do/ambulances](http://www.stjohn.gg/what-we-do/ambulances) operates a 24-hour ambulance service providing accident and emergency cover and paramedic response. Many residents choose to sign up to the Ambulance Subscription Scheme, which means their costs will be covered regardless of how often they use the service.

## Insurance

Many residents choose to take out health insurance to ensure that they are covered for costs that fall beyond their health benefits.

It's a good idea to consider health insurance for the whole family, just to give you peace of mind that you're covered for all eventualities.

You'll probably be able to transfer your existing policy from the UK but do let them know that you're relocating to make sure it remains valid. Health insurance is also widely available from a range of private providers locally

who will be able to offer specialist advice.

As there is no reciprocal medical agreement between the UK and Guernsey, it's important to ensure that any visitors from the UK also have adequate health insurance so they don't get caught out.

Likewise, remember that, as a Guernsey resident, you won't be covered for healthcare while visiting the UK.

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## “ISLANDERS FIND IT EASY TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH THEIR DOCTOR”

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## Holistic Practitioners

Guernsey has a thriving natural health community, reflected in its wide breadth of on-island specialists.

From acupuncture, osteopathy and reflexology to meditation and yoga, islanders have access to many alternative health practitioners, who often work collaboratively to create the best outcomes for their patients. Guernsey also has some first-class nutritionists, physiotherapists and sports therapists.

For more information on healthcare and receiving medical treatment in Guernsey, please contact us at Locate Guernsey. We'll be happy to discuss your individual needs.

To find out more call: +44 (0)1481 743834  
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