


## Health Insurance

In Germany, insurance is compulsory. Do you have a residence permit? Then you must register with a regular health insurance scheme. An insurance card will be sent to you. Then you will get the same healthcare services as all residents in Germany.

 [Website Krankenkassen](#)


If you have an acute illness in another country, you can also receive basic healthcare in many doctors' practices and hospitals in other countries. You can get information about this from your health insurance provider.


You can choose a general practitioner (family doctor) of your choice. Do you need specialist medical treatment? Then your family doctor will give you a referral.


 Are you going to hospital? Are you going to see a therapist? Are you going to see a doctor? Then take your insurance card with you.

## Insurance card

The insurance card is very important. It means that when you see the doctor, the treatment will be paid by your insurance. The card also insures you across Europe. It is called the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). It means you can see a doctor in all EU countries.

 Travelling to a country outside the EU? Then you should get additional insurance. Insurance for other countries will protect you when you travel. It is called foreign health insurance ("Auslandskrankenversicherung").

Do you want to understand the German healthcare system? On this  [Website](#) you will find information. The information is available in German and English.

 As refugees and asylum seekers, you do not yet have health insurance. You need a health insurance certificate. This will allow you to see a doctor. You can get these certificates from the [Social Welfare Office \(Sozialamt\)](#).