

GP SURGERIES

A GP is your local personal NHS doctor. If you are ill or worried about health or the health of anyone in your family, you should go and see your local GP, but in order for you to be able to access these services you must be registered with a practice.

HOW TO REGISTER WITH A GP

A list of GP surgeries in your area, or for advice on registering with a GP practice is available from NHS Lothian on 0131-537-8488.

Details of GP practices are also available on our website at www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk. Click on the words find a GP at the foot of the screen. Type in the postcode of your home address into the box marked "postcode" then click on the words "find nearest" to find the practice nearest to your home.

Please note that you must live within the practice boundary in order to register with that practice.

When registering with any practice you will be asked to provide the following documentation. This documentation is required **for each family member registering.**

Essential Documents Required

1. **NHS medical card (1st choice and alternative to photo ID applicable to UK residents only)**
2. **Birth certificate***
3. **Photographic ID* (passport, ID card or driving licence only)**
4. **Proof of address* (ie Mortgage/rental agreement, utility bill within last 6 months, bank statement, current employment documents)**

If for any reason you are unable to provide proof of address then 2 out of 3 items marked * must be provided and one must be photographic (Passport, ID card or driving licence only).

If you are newly resident in the UK or you are an overseas visitor then additional documentation is required.

Newly resident in the UK from European Economic Alliance (EEA)

You must provide evidence* (as noted above) that it is your intention to permanently reside in the UK

Newly resident in the UK out with EEA

You will be required to produce a letter from the home office confirming residency in the UK, or "No time limit" stamp on your passport. Current employment details and passport/ID card are also required.

EEA Visitors

You will be required to provide European Health Insurance card (EHIC) to be eligible for free NHS treatment during your visit. If you are unable to produce this then charges are applicable.

Reciprocal Agreement visitors- Passport or ID card to be eligible for free NHS treatment which arises during your visit.

Out with EEA and reciprocal visitors – charges apply

If you are here to work or study for a specific time (out with EEA)-

You will be required to produce a current and valid visa, passport/ID card, proof of address, employment/college/university details. If eligibility to free NHS services is established, this also includes your spouse (wife or husband and dependants (sons and daughters) but does not include other relations; grandparents, uncles, aunts etc)

If you have an "Academic visa" you will **NOT** be eligible for NHS treatment as these visas are for people on sabbaticals and therefore not participating in a degree course.

If you cannot provide the appropriate evidence required by the practice, you will be charged for NHS services but this will be refunded as soon as you can provide the required evidence.

More information regarding registering with a GP can be found in a booklet called "why you should register with a GP". This is available from all GP practices.