



British
High Commission
Nicosia



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Dear Partner

S1 FORMS BASED ON EXPORTABLE BENEFITS: JAN 1 2021 ONWARDS

As part of our continued efforts to ensure UK insured nationals who are living in Cyprus are kept up to date with any significant information that may affect their access to healthcare, we are writing to provide you with an update on S1 forms for those with exportable benefits.

What is the past position?

Until earlier this year, individuals in receipt of a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) non-contributory sickness benefit who moved to an EU/EFTA Member State were covered for UK-funded healthcare through the S1 scheme, for as long as they exported the DWP benefit. This relates to four disability and care benefits:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Personal Independent Payment (PIP)
- Carers Allowance (CA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)

What changes are being made, and why?

Following a number of court cases, the issuing of an S1 form for individuals in receipt of the above exportable benefits has been reviewed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

For applications from 1 January 2021, S1 forms will no longer be issued on the basis of exporting Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Carer's Allowance (CA) or Attendance Allowance (AA).

This does not affect those who qualify for an S1 form on the basis of another benefit, such as a UK State Pension.

What about those who already have an S1 form on this basis?

If you have been granted a S1 form on the basis of exporting Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Carer's Allowance (CA) or Attendance Allowance (AA), **you will continue to be covered by this S1 form, even if this is after 31 December 2020 for as long as you export the benefit.**

If you have been granted a time-limited S1 form, **you will be able to apply for renewal** for as long as you are still in receipt of one of the benefits in question.

What about those who have already applied for an S1 form on this basis?

If you have already applied for an S1 form as of the date of this letter, on the basis of exporting one of the above benefits (PIP, DLA, CA or AA), then an S1 form will issued if you otherwise meet the criteria.

What about those who have not yet applied for an S1 form on this basis?

There will be an opportunity to apply for an S1 on the basis of exporting one of the above benefits (PIP, DLA, CA or AA) before the position changes. In order to benefit from this you will need to apply for an S1 form by 31 December 2020.

Is this linked to the UK's exit from the EU?

No. Whilst any new applications must be made by 31 December which is the end of the Transition Period, this is to allow an opportunity for people to apply for an S1 form before the position changes.

Where can UK nationals who may be affected find further information?

More information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/moving-abroad/planning-your-healthcare/> . We understand that access to healthcare is a key concern for UK nationals now and in the future. Our page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-cyprus> gives detailed information about how to access healthcare in Cyprus. We recommend those who would like further information about what action to take now and how to access healthcare from Jan 1 2021 read this guide.

Yours sincerely

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Department of Health and Social Care

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