



European Consumer Centre France

Foreign students: what you should know about health care and emergency numbers in France.

Health care in France

Citizen of the European Union

- ◆ If you are a citizen of the European Union and you have a compulsory health insurance, if you get sick in France or are victim of an accident, you can get refund for the needed medical expenses if you presented before the treatment to the French doctor or in a French hospital the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**. This card replaces the E111 form and other EU forms (E110, 119, etc). The reimbursement will take place as if you were insured in France.
- ◆ **The card is available at your health insurance board.** It's an individual card so each member of your family should have one. It's valid one year and for free but it is not given automatically so think of asking your social security centre a few weeks before leaving.
- ◆ **When presenting your card to the doctor, you shouldn't have to pay for the treatment.** But some health professionals may not know the mechanism of the EHIC. You will then have to advance the expenses. They will give you a treatment form (feuille de soins) which will allow you to ask for the reimbursement later.
- ◆ **If you have a chronic condition and are likely to need treatment abroad, you should contact your usual health provider** for information about appropriate medical centres for your stay in France and about any associated costs.
- ◆ However, it may be **useful to pay for additional travel insurance to cover additional costs** such as repatriation.

Third countries (non-EU countries)

- ◆ If you're coming from a country that isn't a Member State of the European Union and your home country has no special agreement with France in regard to social insurance, **you are not protected by the compulsory health insurance in France.** Since you will have to pay the costs for the medical treatment yourself, **we recommend you to take out private health insurance cover** to meet any medical or repatriation costs.

Alcohol consumption, tobacco, and drugs

Since passing the law of January 10, 1991 ("loi Evin"), **smoking is forbidden in public places in France** (museums, monuments, cinemas) **and on public transport.** Restaurants are divided into smoking and non-smoking areas.

It is forbidden to drive or travel (even on foot) in a state of drunkenness on public roads.

It is forbidden to take alcoholic drinks into any establishment catering for physical and sports activities.

The use or importation of narcotics is strictly forbidden in France, including "soft" drugs (e.g. cannabis).

Pharmacy and medical care

- ◆ There is a large network of pharmacies in towns and cities, and although the opening hours are generally like the other shops (9 am – 7/8 pm), there is always an emergency pharmacy at night, every Sunday, and during the holidays. The address of the nearest emergency pharmacy is usually written on the door of the closed ones; otherwise ask at the police station.
- ◆ **To obtain certain types of medicines, a prescription provided by a doctor is needed.** Other medicines are freely sold and can be then supplied to you over the counter. The pharmacist will be able to give you any further information.

Emergency numbers

SAMU (medical emergencies): 15

Police emergencies: 17

Fire Service emergencies: 18

European emergency line: 112

SOS Médecins (Paris – emergency doctors): +33 (0) 1 47 07 77 77 or
+33 (0) 820 332 424

SOS Dentistes (Paris – emergency dentists): +33 (0) 1 43 37 51 00

(Paris) antipoison centre: +33 (0) 1 40 05 48 48

For further information, the European Consumer Centres (ECCs) will be pleased to help you. You can find further information and a complete list of all ECCs under: http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/redress/ecc_network/index_en.htm

