



HEALTH RIGHTS

for foreign nationals in Italy



This booklet is designed to help you know what your rights are and how you can access the National Health Service in Italy. Whether you are an EU citizen, a non-EU citizen, or a person with or without a residence permit, here you can find information about the services you can use and how to access them.



Citizens of the European Union (EU)

Your health rights change depending on the length of your stay in Italy.

- **Stays of less than 3 months.** You do not need to be registered with the National Health Service (SSN), you can use the **European Health Insurance Card (TEAM)**. The TEAM allows you to receive urgent and essential care under the same conditions as Italian citizens.
- **Stays longer than 3 months.** You can register with the SSN if you are employed or self-employed; if you are a student with TEAM; if you are a dependent family member of an already resident EU citizen. To enroll in the SSN, apply to the Local Health Authority (ASL) in your area, bringing with you the EHIC, an identity document and proof of your right to stay (e.g., work contract or certificate of residence).
- If you have been in Italy for some time and do not have an EHIC (because it is not issued by the country you come from), are not a resident, do not work and live in socially fragile conditions, in some regions a code is issued that allows access to urgent and essential care (ENI code: European not enrolled).

Non-EU citizens with residence permits

If you have a valid residence permit, you must enroll in the SSN.

Enrollment is compulsory and free of charge in the SSN for: holders of residence permits for employment or self-employment; those awaiting employment; people with family permits; asylum seekers or international or special protection; pregnant women or those with health-related permits (excluding those who entered Italy on a permit for treatment); and all minors regardless of the legality of their stay.

To enroll in the SSN, you must bring to the nearest ASL your residence permit (or application for residence permit with appointment at the Questura), social security number and certificate of residence (or domicile).

If you are not part of the categories of people listed above enrollment in the SSN is not mandatory but you can choose **voluntary enrollment by paying an annual contribution** (minimum 2,000 euros with reductions provided for students and other categories). This gives you access to all SSN health services. Alternatively, you can use private health insurance for a fee.

Citizens without a residence permit

If you do not have a residence permit your right to urgent and essential care is always guaranteed by obtaining an **STP (Temporarily Present Alien) Code**. Contact your nearest ASL to see if you are eligible to apply for it. The STP Code is free, anonymous and valid for 6 months (renewable). It allows you to access: urgent and essential care; care during pregnancy and childbirth; mandatory vaccinations; free HIV testing; and treatment for infectious diseases. In many territories in Italy there are public service clinics and humanitarian organizations that provide basic care. Use of health services by foreign persons without residence permits does not result in reporting to the police.

Women who are not citizens of the European Union

If you are a citizen of a non-European Union country, you are entitled to apply for a temporary residence permit in case of pregnancy. This permit is valid for the entire period of pregnancy and for 6 months after delivery and allows you to temporarily register with the SSN. It guarantees you free health care during pregnancy, hospitalization for childbirth, the period after childbirth, and treatment for any pregnancy-related illnesses. The newborn baby must also be enrolled in the SSN. To obtain a temporary residence permit, you must go to the police headquarters with a medical certificate attesting to the pregnancy and specifying the expected date of delivery.

All women, both Italian and foreign, have the right to receive free information and assistance in family counseling centers for contraception, gynecological examinations, pregnancy care, and voluntary termination of pregnancy.

All women, both Italian and EU and foreign, have the right to give birth in the hospital without recognizing their newborn child. Failure to recognize is not considered a crime and does not expose one to any kind of report to the police. Prior to delivery, the woman must inform health officials that she does not intend to recognize the newborn, who in a short time will be placed with a family that will take care of him or her. Anonymity is absolutely assured.

Minors of non-Italian citizenship

All foreign minors (excluding tourists) are entitled to registration with the SSN and assignment to a free-choice pediatrician from birth until age 14 and to a general practitioner thereafter until age 18. All foreign minors are entitled to free access to medical treatment and mandatory vaccinations, regardless of the legality of their stay.

Where to find help?

- **ASL:** the point of reference for registration with the NHS and access to health services in the territory.
- **Family counseling centers:** facilities dedicated to the health of women, couples/families and young people.
- **Public Relations Office (URP) of ASLs:** helps you find information about health services, answers your questions, and welcomes reports or complaints to improve health services.

Here you can find more information, in different languages, about contraception, IVG and health services



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