

WHAT IS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?

Medical assistance is a form of assistance the PCSW may grant you to help you out with your medical bills by paying your healthcare providers directly.

Medical expenses include anything from GP fees, the cost of medication and paramedical treatments to hospital bills even.

To be eligible for a contribution to your healthcare costs from the PCSW you must be in a state of need, meaning that you lack the resources to cover your own medical and pharmaceutical expenses.

The PCSW will carry out a means test to check whether or not you are indigent and will inter alia look at any other income you may have, your debts, the number of people you are providing for, ...



WHOM TO CONTACT?

THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Rue Verbist 88
1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode

direction.sociale@cpassjtn.irisnet.be
02/220.29.69 – 02/220.24.11

How to get there

Metro station: Madou
Bus : 29 (Clovis)
61 (Steurs)
63 (Saint-Josse)

Drop-in centre

Monday to Friday
from 08:45 to 11:45

Or via our call center
0800 35 254

Monday to Friday
8am-12pm | 1pm-4.30pm

Publisher: Luc FRÉMAL (Chairman)
CPAS of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode | 2021

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IS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DEPENDENT ON MY RESIDENCE SITUATION?

Yes, the type of medical assistance you may qualify for is dependent on your residence situation:

1/ Legal residence in Belgium

Medical assistance is defined as a contribution to the medical and pharmaceutical expenses the PCSW may grant people who are legally residing in Belgium.

2/ No valid residence permit (you are in Belgium illegally)

Urgent medical assistance (UMA) is defined as a contribution to the medical and pharmaceutical expenses of non-nationals who are staying in Belgium without a valid residence permit.

Urgent medical assistance is granted in the case of an absolute emergency only. That being said, support from the PCSW is not just limited to emergency care (an accident, a serious illness...). In fact, the PCSW will also intervene if you need any medical attention that is deemed necessary (a medical examination, physiotherapy, a GP visit...), provided that this necessity has been confirmed by a doctor.

Please note that the PCSW will only cover the cost of any urgent medical care your doctor certified in writing.

3/ Asylum seekers in Belgium

As an asylum seeker, you are entitled to material assistance from Fedasil. This includes medical assistance.

In other words, you are not eligible for the PCSW's urgent medical assistance scheme.

PCSWs can only intervene in the medical and pharmaceutical expenses of asylum seekers staying at a local reception initiative (LRI).

HOW TO APPLY FOR (URGENT) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?

All you need to do is to contact your local PCSW and a social worker will examine your application.

You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt to show that you submitted your application on the date in question.

You can always ask someone else to help you.

Once your application has been submitted, the PCSW will carry out a means test to check whether you are eligible for a contribution to your medical and pharmaceutical expenses.

On the basis of that means test, the PCSW will take a reasoned decision within 30 days of receipt of your application.

FAQ

Should I go to the PCSW first?

No, if you are in need of urgent medical care, you should go straight to the hospital or your doctor. If you would like the PCSW to intervene in your medical expenses, you need to contact your social worker as soon as possible after you have been seen by the hospital or your doctor.

Am I eligible for (urgent) medical assistance if I do not have any health insurance?

Yes. If you don't have any health insurance, the PCSW will check whether you can join one and will help you to regularise your health insurance.

Do I, as a recipient of an integration income, qualify for a higher allowance?

Yes, provided you have been in receipt of an integration income for 3 months uninterruptedly or for 6 months with breaks.

Will I have to pay anything myself?

On the basis of the means test, the PCSW will decide whether or not you need to cover part of the costs yourself.

Will I have to pay back the PCSW's contribution?

No, only in cases of fraud will the PCSW demand its money back.

What if I don't agree with the PCSW's decision?

If so, you can lodge an appeal with the labour court. Appeal proceedings are free of charge.