

## MEDICAL TREATMENT CARD

### Instructions for patients staying illegally in the country.

If you are **staying in Belgium illegally**, your **normal and actual place of residence** is within the city of Charleroi and you wish to receive medical assistance, you can **apply for urgent medical assistance** from the Charleroi C.P.A.S.

This medical assistance is purely medical and may cover both curative treatment (treating or curing an illness) and preventive treatment (preventing an illness).

---

#### Procedure to follow:

- **Apply for a medical treatment card** from the Antenne Sociale Etrangers (Foreign Nationals' Social Welfare Department) of the Charleroi CPAS at 15/17 Boulevard de l'Yser, 16000 Charleroi.
- **You must provide an identity document with a photograph (identity card from your country of origin, visa, passport, etc.).**
- **You must cooperate with the social welfare enquiry and provide all relevant documents.**
- **You must provide proof of your means of support and that of those dependent on you for food (parents, children, partner).**
- **You must agree to a home visit** by the social worker so that he can establish that you are resident in Charleroi and your need for assistance.  
**The CPAS is bound by professional confidentiality and does not provide any information to the Police or Charleroi's Foreign Nationals' Department.**
- If you are **homeless**, you must provide an attestation of attendance at night shelters or the address of the person with whom you are staying.
- The CPAS has an obligation to make a decision within one month from the date of receipt of your application: you will then be notified by the CPAS of the decision on your application for a medical treatment card.

### **If you do not have a medical treatment card**

**If you need to consult a doctor**, you must go to the **Accident and Emergency** Department of the hospital of your choice.

**If a doctor prescribes medicaments for you or refers you to a specialist**, you must take a certificate of emergency medical assistance to our Centre's Foreign Nationals' Social Welfare Department to apply for the costs to be paid and obtain an **expenses form to cover the medicaments or specialist's costs**.

NB, it is possible that you will still have to pay some costs (e.g.: patient share).

### **Once you have your medical treatment card**

This card entitles you to **have your medical treatment (doctor, specialist, etc.) and medicaments paid for** by the CPAS:

- either **in full**, if you have no income;
- or **on payment of a small amount** (patient share or patient contribution), if you or your household receives **an income from whatever source**.

You must **show your medical treatment card when you go to the doctor, hospital or pharmacy**. You will then have nothing to pay (or only part of the cost as explained above).

### **Period of validity of the medical treatment card**

The period of CPAS assistance is shown on your medical treatment card.

**ONE MONTH BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH ASSISTANCE ENDS** – if you wish to apply for an extension to your medical treatment card – you are requested to make another appointment with your social welfare assistant.