



British Embassy
Bucharest

NOTE VERBALE no 001/13.01.2021

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and has the honour to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UK's progress in issuing new UK entitlement documents for accessing necessary healthcare under the Protocol on Social Security Coordination to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (the Protocol).

UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

The UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the current UK-issued European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for new applications or renewals, is being launched on 11 Jan 2021. It should be accepted by Romanian healthcare providers as evidence of eligibility for healthcare under the Protocol.

The primary new card design (see Annex A) will be visually distinct from the current UK-issued EHIC to allow healthcare providers to easily distinguish between UK insured people who are accessing necessary healthcare under the Withdrawal Agreement and those who are accessing necessary healthcare under the Protocol. It has a red, white and blue background based on the UK flag and a UK flag security hologram in the top right hand corner.

In addition to this, in recognition of the sensitivities around the use of flags in Northern Ireland, residents of Northern Ireland will be provided with an option to choose an alternative version of the GHIC which does not feature the UK flag so prominently. Applications for this alternative card will open later in the year and we will share the alternative card design with Member States in advance of this.

Both new cards will contain the same information structure and information fields as the current UK EHIC, ensuring providers will be able to easily recognise them as reciprocal healthcare entitlement documents.

Transitional arrangements

UK-issued EHICs will continue to be valid until they expire and should also be recognised by healthcare providers as evidence of eligibility under the Protocol. This includes EHICs issued after 11 January 2021 with respect to applications made before this date.

The UK PRC should also continue to be accepted for the time being. We will write to the Specialised Committee on Social Security Coordination later this year with details of any updates to the UK PRC document.

“Citizens’ Rights” EHIC

The issuing of a GHIC is without prejudice to the rights that some individuals have under the Withdrawal Agreement. As informed in a Note Verbale of 6/11/2020, the UK is issuing a new Citizens’ Rights Agreement (CRA) EHIC to individuals with rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

The CRA EHIC should continue to be accepted by Romanian healthcare providers as evidence of an individual’s rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

New student EHICs are distinguished by country-specific text in the personal identification number (‘PIN’). Student EHICs marked RO should continue to be accepted by Romanian healthcare providers as evidence of an individual’s rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. In addition, under the transitional arrangements, we ask that student EHICs marked with the country code of another Member State are accepted by Romanian healthcare providers as evidence of an individual’s rights under the Protocol.

Next steps

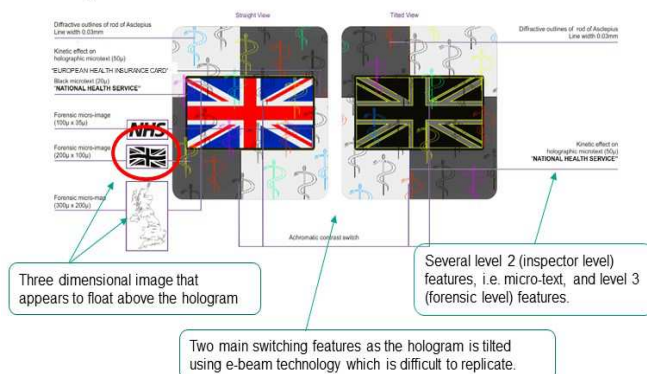
Her Britannic Majesty’s Embassy avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania the assurances of its highest consideration. The Government of the United Kingdom asks that the Government of Romania notes this change and communicates it to local healthcare providers to ensure UK-insured persons be able to access necessary healthcare as provided in the Protocol.

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Annex A: New UK entitlement document

Standard GHIC. This card should be accepted as proof of eligibility under the Protocol by all EU Member States. It features a UK Flag security hologram.



Annex B: UK entitlement documents currently in circulation

Standard CRA EHIC and CRA student EHIC. Both feature a UK Flag security hologram as above and the text 'CRA' in the white text box.

The standard CRA EHIC should be accepted as proof of eligibility under the CRA by all EEA Member States and Switzerland. The student EHIC (distinguished by a two letter country code in the PIN) should be accepted as proof of eligibility under the Withdrawal Agreement by the country identified in the PIN and as proof of eligibility under the Protocol by all EU Member States.



UK-issued EHIC

The UK EHIC should be accepted as proof of eligibility under the Protocol by all EU Member States.

It does not feature a security hologram. Cards issued before 2020 will feature EU stars in the top right hand corner.

