



Health and Care Visa

The government committed to introducing a 'Health and Care Visa' for qualified doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who have been trained to a recognised standard and who have good working English. The scope of the visa has been extended to include eligible persons working in the social care sector.

Benefits

The Health and Care Visa enables fast-track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated support to come to the UK with their families. In addition, people applying for the Health and Care Visa, and their dependant family, are exempt from paying the Immigration Health Surcharge – a huge saving.

Eligibility

The Health and Care Visa is available for individuals who:

- are applying under the Skilled Worker route for Entry Clearance or Leave to Remain; and,
- will be taking up a job in one of the occupations specified within the list of Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes (see list below),
- will be employed or engaged by one of a specified list of employers (provided at the end of this document on pages 3 and 4)

SOC Codes

The Health and Care Visa will apply to the following list of Standard Occupational Classification codes:

2112 – Biological scientists and biochemists	2221 – Physiotherapists
2113 – Physical Scientists	2222 – Occupational Therapists
2211 – Medical Practitioners	2223 – Speech and Language Therapists
2212 – Psychologists	2229 – Therapy professionals not elsewhere classified
2213 – Pharmacists	2231 – Nurses
2214 – Ophthalmic Opticians	2232 – Midwives
2215 – Dental practitioners	2442 – Social Workers
2217 – Medical Radiographers	3213 – Paramedics
2218 – Podiatrists	
2219 – Health Professionals not elsewhere classified	

Correct as of 04 January 2021. Please note the publication date of this article; changes may have occurred. Immigration law changes rapidly. This document may not reflect the most current legal developments.

This is an exhaustive list - applicants must be taking up a job in one of the above occupations to be eligible for the Health and Care Visa.

Other Requirements

In addition, applicants for the Health and Care Visa will need to meet all relevant criteria for a Skilled Worker application. This includes having a certificate of sponsorship, evidence of a salary meeting the required threshold, knowledge of English language, sufficient savings and evidence of no criminal record. [More information on eligibility requirements.](#)

Employer Requirements

The employer will be required to include a brief explanation in the Certificate of Sponsorship setting out how the employee meets the Health and Care Visa eligibility. The employer will also be responsible for informing the applicant they are eligible for the Health and Care Visa so the applicant can correctly complete the visa application form. Where an employer is an organisation that provides services commissioned by the NHS, evidence of the contract arrangements with the NHS may need to be provided to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) as proof that applicants are eligible to apply for a Health and Care Visa.

Information for Certificate of Sponsorship

When you assign a CoS to a skilled worker for a Health and Care Visa, you must include in a brief explanation of how the worker meets the Health and Care Visa criteria – for example, that they work for an NHS trust in one of the required occupation codes. This needs to be entered into the ‘Summary of job description’ field of the CoS. If you forget to include information in this field, you must add a sponsor note with this information after you have assigned the CoS.

Applications

Individuals applying for the Health and Care Visa will apply using the normal Skilled Worker application form. They will need to select the box to confirm they are applying for the Health and Care Visa. Once they have completed all the relevant information, the application process should automatically route Health and Care Visa applicants to the payment page where the appropriate fee will be applied. This is a reduced amount - see [information on application fees](#). The visa fee reduction applies to partners and dependants of Health and Care Visa applicants. Partners and dependants of Health and Care Visa applicants should therefore also tick this box.

Fast-Track Entry

UKVI will prioritise Health and Care Visa applications, with the aim that the vast majority are processed within 3 weeks from the point the applicant has provided their biometric information. This is in comparison to the current timeframe for visa processing of between 8 and 20 weeks.

Dedicated NHS Support & Visa Processing Team

In addition to the reduced fee, there is dedicated support available, enabling Health and Care Visa sponsors to contact UKVI’s specialist team if they have any issues with the application process or eligibility for the health and Care Visa.

Sponsors can contact UKVI’s dedicated NHS team at the following email address:

UKVINHSteam@homeoffice.gov.uk

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Employment Eligibility

- An NHS Foundation Trust in England, an NHS Trust in England, the Care Quality Commission, Health Education England, Health Research Authority, Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, Human Tissue Authority, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, NHS Blood and Transplant, NHS Business Services Authority, NHS Digital (the Health and Social Care Information Centre), NHS England (the NHS Commissioning Board), NHS Improvement (Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority, NHS Resolution (the NHS Litigation Authority or Public Health England, a Local Authority or Clinical Commissioning Group); or
- A local Health Board in Wales, Health Education & Improvement Wales, Public Health Wales, The Welsh Ambulance Service or Velindre NHS Trust; or
- A Health Board or Special Health Board constituted under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service (established under Section 10 of that Act), Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (known as the Care Inspectorate) established under Section 44 of the Public Services (reform) (Scotland) Act 2010 or Scottish Social Services Council established under section 43 of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001; or
- A Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, Northern Ireland Practice and Education Committee, Northern Ireland Social Care Council, Patient and Client Council, Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-Being (the Public Health Agency), Regional Business Services Organisation, Regional Health and Social Care Board or Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority; or

A person who is employed:

- To provide, or to support the provision of, regulated activities as prescribed in Schedule 1 (read with Schedule 2) to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/2936), and who is also employed or engaged by an institution or organisation registered with the Care Quality Commission; or
- For the purposes of an establishment or agency in Wales regulated under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000; or
- For the purposes of a service regulated under Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016; or

A person who is employed or engaged by a party to:

- A general medical services contract to provide primary medical services, or an agreement for the provision of primary medical services under section 50 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006; or

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- A general dental services contract to provide primary dental services, or an agreement for the provision of primary dental services under section 64 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006; or

A person who:

- Is providing care services as defined in section 47(1) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and registered under that Act; or
- Is employed or engaged by an organisation registered with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland; or
- Is, or who is employed or engaged in connection with the provision of services under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 by, a party (other than a Health Board) to: - an arrangement to provide services under section 2C of that Act; - an agreement to provide services under section 17C of that Act; - a contract to provide services under section 17J of that Act; or - an arrangement to provide services under section 25, 26 or 27 of that Act; or
- A person who is employed or engaged by a General Practitioner Federation or by any entity with which the Northern Ireland Regional Health and Social Care Board has a contract or an arrangement under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 to provide Family Practitioner Services; or
- A person who is employed or engaged by a body registered with, or monitored or inspected by, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, and who, if that body were in England and they were employed or engaged by it, would meet the criteria set out in (vi) a), above; or
- A person employed or engaged by, or registered with, one of the following organisations: General Chiropractic Council; General Dental Council; General Medical Council; General Optical Council; General Osteopathic Council; General Pharmaceutical Council; Health and Care Professions Council; Northern Ireland Social Care Council; Nursing and Midwifery Council; Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland; Scottish Social Services Council (under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001) or Social Care Wales, or
- A person employed by an organisation providing adult social care services. Adult social care services means any services which an English Local Authority must or may provide or arrange to be provided under:
 - Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 – (After-care)
 - Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 (Care and Support).

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