

Serious illness

Medical expenses for the treatment of an illness recognised as 'serious' may be reimbursed at a higher rate. This is the procedure you have to follow to have the illness recognised.

Recognition of a serious illness

You can apply for recognition of a serious illness if your illness involve, to varying degrees, the **following 4 elements**:

- a shortened life expectancy
- an illness which is likely to be drawn-out
- the need for aggressive diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures
- the presence or risk of a serious handicap.

Step 1: get a medical report

Your doctor writes a detailed medical report including the following information:

- the exact diagnosis
- the date of the diagnosis
- what stage the illness is at
- any complications
- the treatment required.

Scan this medical report onto your computer (formats supported: PDF, JPEG, TIFF, BMP, GIF).

Step 2: send your application

You can apply for recognition of a serious illness via [JSIS online](#) , which you can access using your ECAS password.

Once in the application, click on 'Create new request' then follow on screen instructions. Need help? Read the user guide "[How to request recognition of a serious illness?](#)"

If you don't have access to the software [JSIS online](#) (e.g. you are retired), simply fill in the [form: recognition of a serious illness](#) (appended at the end of this document). Don't forget to attach all the original supporting documents (keep a copy). Send everything to your settlements office (the correct address is on the form).

Step 3: ask for an extension

If your illness has been recognised as a serious illness, the medical expenses resulting from the serious illness will be covered at a higher rate (subject to the ceilings in force). Recognition of a serious illness is always subject to a time limit (which varies depending on

the circumstances). When the time limit expires you can ask for an extension, for which you must supply a medical report setting out:

- how the illness has developed
- the treatment and/or care still required.

Submit this request for an extension via JSIS online (see Step 2). **Important:** in the case of a new serious illness you must submit a separate request for recognition.

Reimbursement rate

Medical expenses directly linked to the serious illness are reimbursed at a higher rate, up to the ceilings in force and subject to a favourable opinion by the Medical Officer.

As the ceilings are directly linked to the various types of treatment, we suggest you consult the page of [treatments A to Z](#) (requires an EU Login account).

Backdating

As a rule, 100% cover is granted only from the date of the medical certificate supporting the application for recognition of serious illness.

However, on the basis of a reasoned request from the member indicating the treatment in question as entered on his or her account statements, the 100% cover may be backdated, after consulting the Medical Officer.

The backdating may not, however, extend beyond the time limit for reimbursement laid down in Article 32 of the joint rules.

APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS or APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF RECOGNITION

In accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the joint rules and of Chapter 5 of Title III of the General Implementing Provisions

To be returned to your Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme Settlements Office. See address overleaf ↗

Name and forename of member:..... Personnel/Pension No:.....
Institution and place of employment:Office address:Tel:.....
Private address in the case of those in receipt of a pension:
Date of termination of employment / date of end of contract:(for members of the temporary staff/contract agents)

Application for recognition of a serious illness¹

Application for recognition of a serious new medical condition¹

for¹:

Member of the scheme spouse or recognised partner child person treated as a dependent child

Name and forename: Date of birth:

Please attach to your application a detailed medical report – in a sealed envelope addressed to the Medical Officer – which includes the following information:

- **date of diagnosis**
- **exact diagnosis**
- **what stage the illness is at and any complications**
- **treatment required**

Application for an extension of the recognition of a serious illness¹

for¹:

Member of the scheme spouse or recognised partner child person treated as a dependent child

Name and forename: Date of birth:

Please attach to your application a detailed medical report – in a sealed envelope addressed to the Medical Officer – which includes the following information:

- **how the illness has developed**
- **treatment and/or care still required**

The provisions governing recognition of a serious illness are on the back of this form.

I am aware of and undertake to comply with the conditions and rules in force:

Date : ...

Member ¹

Signature of applicant

Other person representing the applicant:

Name and forename ...

¹ Please tick as appropriate.

Chapter 5 – Recognition of the status of serious illness (Chapter 5 of Title III of the General Implementing Provisions)

In accordance with Article 72(1) of the Staff Regulations and Article 20(6) of the joint rules, costs shall be reimbursed in full in the case of tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, cancer, mental illness and other illnesses recognised by the appointing authority as of comparable seriousness after consulting the Medical Officer of the Settlements Office.

The Medical Officer's opinion shall be delivered on the basis of general criteria laid down in the general implementing provisions after consultation of the Medical Council.

However, for the purpose of protecting the financial stability of the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme and respecting the principle of social security cover forming the basis for Article 72 of the Staff Regulations, special ceilings for reimbursing certain benefits may in exceptional circumstances be set in the general implementing provisions.

In the case of benefits for which no reimbursement ceiling has been set, the proportion of the costs deemed excessive by comparison with normal costs in the country where the costs have been incurred shall not be reimbursed. The portion of the costs deemed excessive shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Settlements Office after consulting the Medical Officer.

Special rules for recognition of the status of serious illness (Chapter 5 of Title III of the General Implementing Provisions)

1. Definition

Serious illnesses include tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, cancer, mental illness and other illnesses recognised by the appointing authority as of comparable seriousness.

Such illnesses typically involve, to varying degrees, the following four elements:

- a shortened life expectancy
- an illness which is likely to be drawn-out
- the need for aggressive diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures
- the presence or risk of a serious handicap.

2. What is covered

The 100% reimbursement rate applies to:

- medical costs which appear, in the light of current scientific knowledge, to be directly linked to the diagnosis, treatment or monitoring of the development of the serious illness, or any complications or consequences it causes;
- costs eligible for reimbursement associated with a dependency caused by the serious illness.

3. Procedures

Applications for recognition of serious illness must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Medical Officer and be accompanied by a detailed medical report. For an initial application, the report must include:

- the date of the diagnosis
- the exact diagnosis
- what stage the illness is at, and any complications
- the treatment required.

The 100% cover for expenditure related to serious illness is granted from a start date (the date of the medical certificate) to a date in the future, which cannot be more than 5 years.

The Settlements Office will warn the member in due course when the cover is about to expire, in order to give him or her time to submit an application for the cover to be extended, accompanied by a medical report that explains:

- How the illness has developed;
- the treatment and/or care still required.

The decision granting 100% cover is reviewed regularly on the basis of up-to-date information on the person's state of health and scientific advances, to reassess, if necessary, the extent of the cover.

4. Backdating

As a rule, 100% cover is granted only from the date of the medical certificate supporting the application for recognition of serious illness.

However, on the basis of a reasoned request from the member indicating the treatment in question as entered on his or her account statements, the 100% cover may be backdated, after consulting the Medical Officer.

The backdating may not, however, extend beyond the time limit for reimbursement laid down in Article 32 of the joint rules.

Addresses of the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme Settlements Offices

Brussels Settlements Office European Commission	Ispra Settlements Office European Commission	Luxemburg Settlements Office European Commission
JSIS Brussels – Prior authorisation B-1049 Brussels	JSIS Ispra - Prior authorisation PMO/06 - TP 730 Via E. Fermi, 2749 I-211027 Ispra	JSIS Luxembourg - Prior authorisation DRB - B1/073 L-2920 Luxembourg
JSIS Contact hotline +32-2-29 97777 (9:30 – 12:30)	JSIS Contact hotline +39-0332-785757(9:30-12:30)	JSIS Contact hotline +352-4301 36100 (9:30-12:30)

STAFF Contact - <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/staff/EN/health/Pages/index.aspx>