

No. 9585

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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
and  
BULGARIA**

**Medical Services Convention (with administrative protocol  
and exchange of notes). Signed at London on 13  
March 1968**

*Authentic texts : English and Bulgarian.*

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on  
19 May 1969.*

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**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD  
et  
BULGARIE**

**Convention relative aux prestations médicales (avec  
protocole administratif et échange de notes). Signée  
à Londres le 13 mars 1968**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et bulgare.*

*Enregistrée par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord  
le 19 mai 1969.*

MEDICAL SERVICES CONVENTION <sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria ;

Being resolved to co-operate in the field of medical services ;

Affirming the principle that the people of one of the two countries should, as far as possible, be entitled to receive under the medical services legislation of the other country equal treatment with the people of the other country ;

Desirous of giving effect to this principle and of making arrangements for that purpose ;

Have agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

For the purposes of the present Convention—

- (a) " country " means, according to the context, the United Kingdom or the People's Republic of Bulgaria ;
- (b) " United Kingdom " means England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man ;
- (c) " competent authority " means :
  - (i) in relation to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Health, or the Secretary of State for Scotland, or the Minister of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man Health Services Board as the case may require ; and
  - (ii) in relation to the People's Republic of Bulgaria the Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare ;

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 20 January 1969, i.e. the sixtieth day after the day (21 November 1968) on which the instruments of ratification were exchanged at Sofia, in accordance with article 7 (2).

(d) “ medical services ” means:

- (i) in relation to the People’s Republic of Bulgaria, treatment and care under the State Health Services provided under the legislation of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria, excluding treatment at health resorts and spas ; and
- (ii) in relation to the United Kingdom, treatment and care under the hospital and specialist services, the local authority health and welfare services, the General Medical and Dental Services, the Pharmaceutical Services and the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services, provided under the National Health Service legislation of the United Kingdom.

#### *Article 2*

(1) Subject to the provisions of the present Convention, a British subject or a British protected person, permanently resident in the United Kingdom, shall be entitled while in the People’s Republic of Bulgaria to benefit from the medical services of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria on the same conditions as a Bulgarian citizen.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the present Convention, a Bulgarian citizen shall be entitled while in the United Kingdom to benefit from the medical services of the United Kingdom on the same conditions as a person who is permanently resident in the United Kingdom.

#### *Article 3*

The present Convention shall not apply to a British subject or a British protected person who goes to the People’s Republic of Bulgaria or to a Bulgarian citizen who goes to the United Kingdom for the express purpose of benefiting under the present Convention.

#### *Article 4*

The competent authorities—

- (a) shall communicate to each other information regarding any measure taken by them for the application of the present Convention ;
- (b) shall communicate with each other as soon as possible should any changes occur in legislation or regulations which significantly affect the nature or scope of the medical services provided under the present Convention ;
- (c) shall furnish assistance to one another with regard to any matter relating to the application of the present Convention.

*Article 5*

Any disagreement relating to the interpretation or application of the present Convention shall be resolved by consultations between the competent authorities of the two countries.

*Article 6*

The administrative arrangements required for the application of the present Convention are set out in the annexed Administrative Protocol.

*Article 7*

(1) The present Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Sofia.

(2) The present Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

*Article 8*

The present Convention shall remain in force for a period of two years from the date of its entry into force. Thereafter, it shall continue in force for every following period of two years unless it is terminated before the expiry of any such two-year period by one of the countries giving three months' written notice of termination to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at London this 13th day of March, 1968, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland :

George BROWN

For the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

д-р П. ВУТОВ<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Petr Vutov.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOL TO THE MEDICAL SERVICES CONVENTION  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERN-  
MENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

At the time of signing the Medical Services Convention of today's date (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria have agreed that the administrative arrangements for the application of the Convention shall be set out in the present Protocol.

*Article 1*

For the purpose of the present Protocol, the expressions used shall have the same meanings as in the Convention.

*Article 2*

To demonstrate entitlement to receive medical services under Article 2 of the Convention :

- (a) A Bulgarian citizen shall present a Bulgarian external passport.
- (b) A British subject or a British protected person permanently resident in the United Kingdom shall present both a passport describing him as a British subject or a British protected person, as the case may be, and a United Kingdom National Health Service Medical Card.

*Article 3*

All expenses connected with the provision of medical services under the terms of the Convention, including administrative costs and other relevant expenses, shall be borne by the competent authorities of the country which provides the medical services.

*Article 4*

In the United Kingdom, the competent authorities have delegated responsibility for the application of the Convention as follows :

- (a) Hospital and Specialist Services :
  - (i) in England and Wales—the Regional Hospital Board and the local Hospital Management Committee (but at a Teaching Hospital—the Board of Governors) ;
  - (ii) in Scotland—the Regional Hospital Board and the local Board of Management ;

- (iii) in Northern Ireland—the Hospitals Authority and the local Hospital Management Committee;
  - (iv) in the Isle of Man—the Hospital Administration Committee.
- (b) Local Health and Welfare Services :
- (i) in England and Wales and Scotland—the Local Health Authority;
  - (ii) in Northern Ireland—the Local Health and Welfare Authority;
  - (iii) in the Isle of Man—the Isle of Man Health Services Board.
- (c) General Medical, General Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services :
- (i) in England and Wales and Scotland—the local National Health Service Executive Council;
  - (ii) in Northern Ireland—the General Health Services Board;
  - (iii) in the Isle of Man—the Medical and Dental Services Committee.

*Article 5*

Forms, documents and correspondence connected with the Convention and the Protocol may be prepared in either the English or the Bulgarian language.

*Article 6*

The present Protocol shall form an integral part of the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at London this 13th day of March, 1968, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland :

George BROWN

For the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

д-р П. ВУТОВ<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Petr Vutov

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES — ÉCHANGE DE NOTES

## I

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Bulgarian Ambassador  
in London*

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

N 19/1

13 March, 1968

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Article 1 (d) (ii) of the Medical Services Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria which was signed in London today.

I have to inform Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, that "the National Health Service legislation of the United Kingdom" referred to in that sub-paragraph means the National Health Service Acts 1946 to 1966, the National Health Service (Scotland) Acts 1947 to 1961, the National Health Service Acts (Northern Ireland) 1948 to 1963, and the National Health Service (Isle of Man) Acts 1948 to 1963, including the subordinate legislation made thereunder, together with any existing or future law or regulation which amends, supplements or consolidates any of that legislation.

I have the honour to be with the highest consideration Your Excellency's obedient Servant.

George BROWN

## II

*The Bulgarian Ambassador in London to the Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs*

[BULGARIAN TEXT — TEXTE BULGARE]

ПОСОЛСТВО НА НАРОДНА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

№ 421

Лондон, 13 март 1968 година

Господин Министре,

Имам чест да се позова на член 1, буква (z), точка (i) — от Конвенцията за медицинското обслужване между Правителството на Народна република

България и Правителството на Обединеното Кралство Великобритания и Северна Ирландия, подписана днес в Лондон.

Трябва да Ви съобщя, господин Министре, от името на Правителството на Народна република България, че израза « държавното здравно обслужване, съгласно законодателството на Народна република България » означава същото обслужване, което се осигурява на българските граждани съгласно указ № 131 на Президиума на Народното събрание от 17 март 1951 година за обща безплатна медицинска помощ, публикуван в Държавен вестник № 23 от 20 март 1951 година. Горният указ е влезъл в сила на 20 март 1951 година.

Изразът « Като се изключват курортното и балнео-санаториално лечение » няма да се прилага по отношение на притежател на Медицинска карта от Националната здравна служба на постоянно местожителство в Обединеното Кралство, ако болницата в която той се лекува или се е лекувал, посочи медицински индикации, че лечението трябва да продължи в курорт или минерална баня.

Моля, приемете, господин Министре, високото ми към Вас уважение.

Д-р Петър ВУТОВ

[TRANSLATION <sup>1</sup> — TRADUCTION <sup>2</sup>]

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

No. 421

London, 13 March, 1968

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Article 1 (d) (i) of the Medical Services Convention between the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, signed this day in London.

I have to inform you, Sir, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, that the expression "State Health Services provided under the legislation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria" means the same services assured to Bulgarian nationals under the provisions of Decree No. 131 of the Presidium of the National Assembly of 17th March, 1951 for general free medical assistance, published in State Gazette No. 23 of 20th March, 1951. The above Decree entered into force on the 20th March, 1951.

The expression "excluding treatment at health resorts and spas" shall not be applied in relation to a holder of a Medical Card, issued by the National

<sup>1</sup> Translation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> Traduction du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord.



Health Service, on permanent residence in the United Kingdom if the medical report issued by the hospital in which he is being treated or had been treated specifically indicates that treatment should continue at a health resort or mineral baths.

Please accept, Sir, my highest respects.

д-р Петър ВУТОВ<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Petr Vutov.