

No. 10421

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

Health Services Convention. Signed at Warsaw on 21 July 1967

Authentic texts: English and Polish.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
21 April 1970.*

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

**Convention relative aux services de santé. Signée à Varsovie
le 21 juillet 1967**

Textes authentiques : anglais et polonais.

*Enregistrée par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
21 avril 1970.*

HEALTH SERVICES CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

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

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

Noting that, under the National Health Service legislation of the United Kingdom, it is the duty of the Ministers responsible for Health to provide a comprehensive health for the people of the United Kingdom;

Noting that, under the legislation of the Polish People's Republic, it is the duty of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to provide a comprehensive health service for Polish citizens;

Affirming the principle that the people or citizens, as the case may be, of one of the two States should, as far as possible, be entitled to receive under the health service legislation of the other State equal treatment with the citizens or people of the other State;

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

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purpose of the present Convention, the term:

“State” means, according to the context, the United Kingdom or the Polish People's Republic;

“United Kingdom” means England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man;

“Competent authority” means:

¹ Came into force on 26 December 1969, i.e. the sixtieth day after the day on which the instruments of ratification were exchanged, at London, on 27 October 1969, in accordance with article 8.

- in relation to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man Health Services Board, as the case may require ;
- in relation to the Polish People's Republic, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare;
“The people of the United Kingdom” means the holders of United Kingdom National Health Service Medical Cards;
“Polish citizen” means a holder of a valid Polish passport;
“Health services” means:
 - in relation to the United Kingdom, treatment and care provided under the National Health Service legislation of the United Kingdom referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 of Article 2;
 - in relation to the Polish People's Republic, treatment and care under the social health services provided under the legislation of the Polish People's Republic referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 2.

Article 2

- (1) The provisions of the present Convention shall apply:
- (a) in relation to the United Kingdom, to the health services established by the National Health Service Acts 1946 to 1966, the National Health Service (Scotland) Acts 1947 to 1961, the Health Services Acts (Northern Ireland) 1948 to 1963 and the National Health Service (Isle of Man) Acts 1948 to 1963, including the subordinate legislation made thereunder;
 - (b) in relation to the Polish People's Republic, to the health services established for workers and members of their families in the Law on Social Insurance, 1933, with subsequent amendments and executive regulations.
- (2) The present Convention shall also apply to any existing or future laws or other regulations which amend, supplement or consolidate the legislation referred to in paragraph (1).

Article 3

Subject to the provisions of the present Convention.

- (a) the holder of a United Kingdom National Health Service Medical Card, who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, shall be entitled while in the Polish People's Republic to benefit from the health services under the social health services scheme on the same conditions as the persons who are mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of Article 2;
- (b) a Polish citizen shall be entitled while in the United Kingdom to benefit from the health services under the National Health Service of the United Kingdom on the same conditions as the people of the United Kingdom.

Article 4

The present Convention shall not apply to the people or citizens, as the case may be, of the one State who go to the other State for the express purpose of benefiting under the present Convention.

Article 5

The competent authorities shall

- (a) communicate to each other information regarding any measure taken by them for the application of the present Convention;
- (b) 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 health services provided under the present Convention;
- (c) furnish assistance to one another with regard to any matter relating to the application of the present Convention.

Article 6

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

Article 7

The administrative arrangements for the application of the present Convention shall be drawn up between the competent authorities of the two States.

Article 8

The present Convention shall be ratified and shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged. This exchange shall take place in London.

Article 9

The present Convention shall remain in force for a period of two years. Thereafter it shall continue in force for every following period of two years unless it is terminated before the expiry of any such period by one of the Contracting Parties 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 Convention.

DONE in duplicate at Warsaw this twenty-first day of July, 1967, in the English and Polish languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

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

G. THOMSON

For the Government
of the Polish People's Republic:

TITKOW
