



### **Who's responsible for prescriptions?**

The general practitioner (Medico di Medicina generale, MMG) and every specialist working within public or private structures.

### **Where do you buy medicines?**

In pharmacies. In many cases it is necessary to have a prescription from a general practitioner or specialist doctor, whereas the so-called over-the-counter medicines do not require a doctor's prescription.



### **How can I book an appointment for check-ups, tests, or medical specialists?**

You can book appointments at healthcare offices (clinics, hospitals, etc.) by presenting your tessera sanitaria and the prescription from your MMG or specialist.

If you speak Italian fluently, you can also call the CUP regionale: 06 99 39. They are open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.



ENGLISH

## **RIGHT TO HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS IN ITALY**



*Donne in cammino  
dalla resilienza all'autonomia  
sul territorio di Roma*

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## 1. Extra-EU citizens with residence permits

If you have a **valid residence permit** under the following categories:

- subordinated or autonomous job
- job search permit
- family reasons
- asylum seekers or international protection.

Are you **pregnant** and have a **residence permit for health purposes**?

**Are you underage?**

You must register with the **National Health Service** (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale - SSN).

How?

Find the nearest ASL and bring your residence permit, codice fiscale, and residence permit. Once there, choose your general practitioner (Medico di Medicina Generale). Afterward, your health insurance card will be sent to your address. The duration of your health insurance depends on the duration of your residence permit.

If you don't have a residence permit, you will not have the right to register with the National Health Service. However, you can opt for voluntary registration, which will allow you access to all the services within the Italian health system by going to the nearest ASL. You will pay an annual fee of € 2,000 (students and other categories may receive a lower rate). Additionally, you have the option to purchase private health insurance.

## 2. People without a residence permit

**If you don't have a residence permit, you still have access to the emergency room.** This right must be granted to everyone in Italy. You can request the STP Code or **Codice STP (Straniero Temporaneamente Presente)** from the nearest ASL. It's free, anonymous, and **valid for six months** (renewable). With it, you will have access to urgent needed assistance, support during pregnancy, childbirth procedures, mandatory vaccinations, HIV testing, and sexually transmitted disease (STD) treatments. You will not face any issues with law enforcement for accessing healthcare without a valid residence permit.

## 3. Foreign women without a residence permit

If you are **pregnant**, you can apply for a **temporary residence permit**, which will be valid throughout your pregnancy and for six months after giving birth. Additionally, you will have the right to be temporarily registered with the National Health Service, granting you free healthcare assistance during your pregnancy and recovery process. You will also receive help if any problems or diseases related to your pregnancy arise.

If you have a temporary residence permit, you must go to the **Questura** with a **medical certificate** proving your pregnancy and specifying your expected due date. You can obtain this certificate from your nearest family **counseling center** (consultorio familiare), where you can get information and free assistance for any pregnancy-related situation.

You have the right to give birth in a hospital, even if you will not acknowledge your child after birth. The lack of acknowledgment is not a crime, and you will not be exposed to any authorities. Before giving birth, inform the hospital staff that you do not intend to recognize the child so they can quickly find a family to care for the newborn. Remember, this will be an anonymous procedure!

## 4. Minors without Italian citizenship

Minors in Italy have **free access to the healthcare system**, regardless of their migration status.

Specifically, they have access to:

- choosing their **preferred pediatrician** from birth until age 14.
- **mandatory vaccinations.**



## What are the main healthcare services? What do they provide?

These are the services available to you:

**General practitioner (Medico di Medicina generale, MMG):** this service should be activated if you're feeling sick, but it's not necessary to go to the emergency room. For example: flu, cold, stomach pain, treatment for an already diagnosed disease, or if you need a medical certificate to show your employer.

**Emergency number (112):** this service should be used in emergencies such as car accidents or serious incidents that prevent someone from moving.

**Emergency room at the hospital (available 24/7):** this service should be activated when you are feeling seriously ill and cannot go to the MMG, or when you are about to give birth. It is also used when someone has been physically attacked or has suffered any type of violence that requires immediate medical attention.

**Health center:** you may go here if you have been referred by the MMG and have a medical prescription for a specific treatment that is not considered urgent.

**Hospital admission:** this service will be activated by the MMG or specialists at the hospital after you have undergone tests and visited a specialist.

**Family counseling:** this service can be used by women of any age, including services related to birth control and pregnancy.

**SERD (Servizi per le dipendenze patologiche):** this service can be used to prevent, diagnose, and treat anyone who has developed a dependency on substances, alcohol, gambling, etc.