

5. Health Care

5.1 The European Health Insurance Card

The idea of the European Health Insurance Card is to simplify the transfer of the health insurance of a European citizen to another European country where he/she is residing. Citizens of the EU/EEA-countries are thus entitled to emergency medical care or to medical care required by a pre-existing health condition at the same costs as permanent residents of Finland. The requirement is that the person is covered by health insurance in his/her home country. You need to look into these matters in your home country. More information about the European Health Insurance card can be found at www.europa.eu.

5.2 Municipal Health Care Centres

Everyone who lives in Finland is entitled to health care and medical treatment. In emergency situations, treatment is provided immediately. In non-urgent cases the need for care is assessed and treatment is provided within a specified time. Health care centre treatment is arranged within three months and specialised medical care within six months.

In emergency cases, such as sudden illness, unconsciousness or life-threatening, always call **112**.

Åbo

There are six municipal health care centres in Åbo. The health care centres are open from Monday to Friday 8.00-16.00, closed on weekends and on national holidays. The city of Turku's Welfare Division provides medical advice over the phone, call 02-10023. You can call there on weekdays from 8.00-15.00. Your call will be answered by a trained nurse. If there is no immediate life threatening situation, patients requiring urgent treatment should first attend their local health centre between 8.00-15.30. Your postcode determines your local health centre. For an appointment to see a doctor, call +358 (0)2 231 4543.

The hearing-impaired have their own service for the evaluation of medical care, counselling and making an appointment at a health centre. This can be contacted during office hours by texting +358 (0)44 907 3824.

For more information see www.turku.fi > Health.

Vasa

There are six municipal health care centres in Vasa. The health care centres are open from Monday to Thursday 8.00-16.00 and Friday 8.00-14.00. If you need urgent medical care outside the before mentioned times:

Mon-Sun 16:00 (14:00)-8:00, visit the Accident & Emergency Clinic (Vaasa Central Hospital), Y-building, Hietalahdenkatu 2-4, Vasa. Appointments are not made, patients are examined in order of arrival and type of illness. For medical advice, call +358 (0)6 213 1001.

If you are not sure whether your symptoms require emergency care, please call your Health Centre during office hours and outside these hours call the emergency care helpline at +358 (0)6 213 1001.

In addition to health centre services, primary health care includes maternity and child welfare clinics, school health care, medical rehabilitation and dental care. Local authorities also provide specialised medical care through the municipal hospital districts. Primary health care is provided by municipal health care centres. Children under school age are attended to by child welfare clinics, and school children by school health care. Local authorities can, if necessary, acquire health services from the private sector. Employers organise occupational health care and occupational rehabilitation for employees (see chapter 5.5).