

| General Information | |
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| Ministerial Decision Type | Miscellaneous |
| Report Title | Student Healthcare Services - Free GP Consultations for Students Aged 18+ |
| Minister | Social Security |
| Signatory | Minister |
| Lead Department | Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SP3) |
| Lead Directorate | Public Policy (SP3) |
| Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or Absolutely/Qualified Exempt | Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption. |
| Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed. | Select date. |
| Report and Supplemental Report Details | |
| Report Author | Policy Officer |
| Date of Report | 24/10/2024 |
| Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i> | Insert Supplemental Report Title. |
| Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i> | Insert Official Title Only. |
| Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i> | Select Date of Supplemental Report. |
| Ministerial Decision Report: Public or Absolutely/Qualified Exempt | Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption. |
| Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal where appropriate or allowed under legislation/case/application)</i> | Insert Relevant Case/Application. |
| Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i> | |
| Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i> | Insert S.R. number. |
| Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation | Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967 |
| Action required if recommendation agreed | Department to take necessary action. |
| Resource Implications | There are new financial and/or manpower implications. Further detail is included in the detail section of the report. |

Introduction

In response to the eighteenth amendment to the proposed Government plan 2024-2027 (P72/2023 Amd (18)) lodged on 27th November 2023 and adopted by the States Assembly, this new scheme will provide free GP surgery consultations to students aged 18 and above.

Students Healthcare Services

This Service provides free GP, nurse, paramedic and health care assistant surgery appointments to students aged 18 and above in full-time education at school, Highlands College, or Colleges and Universities in the UK or abroad.

People who are eligible for support under this service are full-time students who are entitled to medical benefits under the Health Insurance (Jersey) Law 1967, (meaning they are ordinarily resident in Jersey and they are a member of the Health Insurance Scheme having achieved six months' residency and paid any contributions to the fund that would be due of them).

The scheme does not include other primary care services such as home visits and out of hours JDOC services, blood tests, urinalysis, referral letters, ECGs, swabs, spirometry, ear syringing and pregnancy tests.

Remote consultations for on-island students are included.

The scheme will be rolled out to Jersey students during October 2024.

Scheme developed with GPs

This service has been designed in consultation with the Primary Care Board who represent General Practices in Jersey. The service will:

- Reduce financial pressures on families
- Support young people who are students to access General Practice consultations without having to ask for money from parents/guardians (independent access)

Financial and manpower Implications

The cost of the scheme is estimated at £75,000 per annum. It will be funded from the Health Insurance Fund.

Systems development has been undertaken to support an efficient payment process and allow information regarding the service to be collected. This development required a non-recurring budget of £3,750.

Existing manpower resources will be used to administer the scheme.

Appendix: Rules of the service:

The Minister for Social Security has approved free GP surgery consultations for full-time students aged 18 years and above enrolled in accredited sixth form, higher or further education courses at recognised institutions. This applies to face-to-face consultations with a GP, Practice Nurse, HCA or Paramedic employed at the Practice. Remote consultations for students on island are included. The scheme is designed to support improved access to primary healthcare for adult students.

Rules of the Service

1. The Service is Funded from the Health Insurance Fund
2. Eligibility Criteria
 - **Age 18 and above** during the academic year
(NB people aged 0 to 17 years may access services under the Children's Health Care scheme)
 - **Full-Time Enrolment:** Students must be enrolled, full-time on a sixth form or accredited higher or further education course. This usually means attending classes, lectures, or other educational activities for a minimum number of hours per week as defined by the institution. Part-time students are not covered under this service.
 - **Recognised Institutions:** Only students attending boarding schools, secondary schools, Highlands College, recognised universities, colleges, or other institutions of higher or further education are eligible. Colleges or universities are those that can legally award degrees or other qualifications or are affiliated with such institutions. Qualifying courses include:
 - a first degree, for example BA, BSc or BEd
 - a Foundation Degree
 - a Certificate of Higher Education
 - a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
 - a Higher National Certificate (HNC)
 - a Higher National Diploma (HND)
 - an Initial Teacher Training course
 - a full time Masters degree
 - a full time Post Graduate degree
 - **Proof of Status:** Students known to the Government, will be automatically joined to the service. Those known comprise:
 - Registered with Student Finance
 - Enrolled at Highlands
 - Students of Jersey Sixth for Schools
 - Students who will not be automatically joined to service (see above) should contact the Health Benefits team at Customer and Local Services, essHealth@gov.je.

- Students may be asked to provide proof of their full-time student status (e.g., a valid student ID, enrolment letter, or registration certificate).

3. Registration with a GP Practice

- Students must be registered with a participating local General Practitioner (GP) practice to be eligible for free consultations.

4. Scope of Free Consultations

- Free consultations are only available to students who have joined the Service at the time of the consultation.
- Auto enrolled students - Fees incurred where the student can reasonably expect to have been auto-enrolled on the scheme can be reimbursed or invoice settled on behalf of student by contacting CLS at essHealth@gov.je.
- Non auto-enrolled students - Fees incurred before the student has joined the service cannot be reimbursed.
- The consultations funded under this scheme include the full range of ordinary, proper and necessary, primary care medical services, such as assessments, diagnosis, prescribing for both minor and serious health conditions, preventive care, and mental health support, subject to the exclusions below.
- This policy covers face to face consultations and remote consultations whilst on island with a GP, nurse, pharmacist, paramedic or health care assistant.

5. Exclusions

- **Non-Medical Services:** Free consultations do not cover services such as applications, or other non-health-related purposes.
- **Specialist and Private Treatment:** Specialist care or private healthcare services beyond the scope of ordinary GP care are not included.
- Remote consultations where either the practitioner or patient is off-Island are not included
- Home visits and out-of-hour services (JDOC) are not included.
- Ancillary services are not included. These include.
 - blood test
 - urine test
 - pregnancy test
 - referral letter
 - ECG
 - swabs
 - spirometry (lung test)
 - minor surgery
 - IUD fitting / removal
 - contraceptive implants
 - joint injections

- other specialist services
- Students who are also members of the Health Access Scheme (HAS) scheme will retain all benefits and services offered by HAS

6. Consultation Availability

Free consultations are available during regular GP practice hours. Out-of-hours or weekend services are not included with this service. Students who are entitled to services under this scheme will not be disadvantaged in their access to services.

7. Duration of Eligibility

- Students are eligible for free consultations if they are enrolled in full-time education. This eligibility ends on 31 August each year. Eligible students will be renewed on 1 September for the next calendar year.
- Any changes in enrolment status must be reported to Customer and Local Services.
- Fees for consultations prior to full time education enrolment or during breaks in enrolment will not be reimbursed, even if the student later re-enrols.
- Customer and Local Services will update the student list every three months as a minimum.

8. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- All consultations will be handled in line with standard confidentiality and data protection policies by the practice. Student health records will be securely maintained, and personal information will not be shared without consent unless required by safeguarding protocols. GP systems will be automatically updated by CLS to identify which patients are students.

9. Complaints and Feedback

- Students with concerns or complaints regarding GP services should follow the standard complaints procedure of the relevant GP practice.
- Any enquires, complaints or other feedback about the service should be directed to essHealth@gov.je

10. Right to Withdraw

Students have the right to withdraw from the service at any time. To do so, they must notify both their GP practice and Customer and Local Services. Students will be removed within 30 days of receipt of this notification.

11. Non-Statutory Service

This service is non-statutory, and the decision of the Minister for Social Security is final.

Ministerial Office
Ministerial Decision Report



These rules are in place to ensure that students can access GP surgery visits while pursuing their education, supporting their overall physical and mental well-being.