

Individual Tax Alert

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18 July 2013

Health care coverage in Belgium - The abolishment of the SIS-card

As from 1 January 2014, the Belgian health insurance funds will no longer issue SIS-cards for Belgian health care coverage.

New system

The SIS-card currently fulfils two objectives:

- the insured person's identification (i.e. the person affiliated with a Belgian health insurance fund);
- determination of the insured person's rights with regard to the reimbursement of Belgian health care costs incurred.

As from 1 January 2014 however, new SIS-cards will no longer be issued by the Belgian health insurance funds. Instead, the Belgian EID-cards (Electronic ID) will be used for the insured person's identification. The other data currently saved on the SIS-cards will be stored electronically by the insured person's Belgian health insurance fund. The health professionals will then be able to access the health insurance funds database online, allowing them to determine the rights of coverage and reimbursement of an individual.

Individuals who do not meet the requirements for a Belgian EID-card will receive a so-called "isi+-card" (identification sociale / sociale identificatie). This isi+-card will for instance be issued to children younger than 12 years and to persons who do not have a Belgian EID-card but are socially insured in Belgium (e.g. frontier workers and their families).

Existing SIS-cards will continue to be used during a (yet to be determined) transitional period for identification purposes only. However, SIS-cards which expire during the transitional period will no longer be renewed.

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