

FAQ: dialysis on holiday

Can I travel outside Switzerland as a dialysis patient?

Yes, an existing condition should not prevent you from travelling, and you can go abroad if your physical condition permits.

What do I have to bear in mind when travelling abroad as a dialysis patient?

Before you leave, you need to contact a dialysis centre in your destination country to book an appointment.

How much will dialysis cost abroad?

Dialysis costs vary considerably from country to country. Make sure to find out what your dialysis will cost before you arrive.

Will my health insurance cover the cost of my dialysis while I am abroad?

Yes, your health insurance will cover the cost of your dialysis treatment while you are abroad. Under Art. 36 para. 4 of the Health Insurance Ordinance, the maximum amount covered is double the cost that would be reimbursed in Switzerland.

Can I use my European Health Insurance Card while I am abroad?

If you are travelling to an EU or EFTA country, you can use your European Health Insurance Card. Please clarify in advance whether the foreign dialysis centre accepts the card. If it does, you will not be billed for any charges in the foreign country. Your health insurer will be billed directly via the collective institution under the Health Insurance Act (Gemeinsame Einrichtung KVG).

If you are travelling to a country that is not a member of the EU or EFTA, you cannot use your European Health Insurance Card. In this case, you will have to pay the costs yourself and submit a claim for reimbursement. Please send the original bill to the Swiss association for joint tasks of health insurers (SVK) for verification.

Can I take medicines from Switzerland with me?

The exporting of medicines is subject to the Narcotics Act. You can find all the information you need on travelling with medicines on the website of [swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products](#).

Make sure to find out about the import restrictions in your destination country well in advance.

For more information, read our [Circular 01/2017 \(in German\)](#) or consult your doctor or dialysis centre.