



APPLYING FOR A MEDICAL CARD

SOME HELPFUL TIPS

IRISH SKIN FOUNDATION

FACT SHEETS

ONLINE APPLICATION

You can complete your application on-line through www.medicalcard.ie. This is a faster process and will give you an indication if you can expect to be successful with your application. Even if indications are that you are not eligible through the online process and you have on-going medical problems – complete the traditional paper-based application form as you still may be eligible for a medical or GP card.

FORM FILLING

Make sure you complete the form in full and answer all the questions. This may seem like a silly point but by simply not completing the form in full, it will delay the application process. Make it easy for the HSE to be able to read and understand your form. Easier for them means easier for you!

GP CONSENT

Make sure your GP agrees to accept your application for a medical card. It is essential you get your GP to complete and stamp the form before submitting.

BE PREPARED

Whether you are completing the form on-line (at www.medicalcard.ie) or by the paper based application, it is essential to do your homework first! Gather all your information in advance of filling the form. Please see below a checklist of information to include, to help support your application.

- ☐ **Proof of Payment** – wage/pay slips (showing deductions) or social welfare payment slips
- ☐ **Cost of Mortgage & Mortgage Protection** – is it separate or included in your mortgage?
- ☐ **House Insurance** – Copy of the invoice and policy cover
- ☐ **Travel Costs** – Distance to work, parking fees (if essential) or bus/train tickets if public transport is used.
- ☐ **Childcare Costs** – if you are paying someone privately you will need a statement to confirm payment.
- ☐ **Bank Statements** – People tend to ignore answering the “savings” questions. It’s ok to have savings but they must be declared even if they do not affect your application.
- ☐ **Medical / Financial Evidence** – it is important to gather extensive proof – correspondence/reports/specialist reports / budgets in support of your case even if you are over the threshold. The HSE has discretion to grant a medical card even if you are above the threshold limits on grounds of “undue Hardship” or it is “unduly burdensome”

MEDICAL GROUNDS / “UNDUE HARDSHIP” OR “UNDULY BURDENSOME”

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a medical or GP Card and you have an on-going medical condition, it is essential you provide in detail as much information as possible regarding your condition(s) and the impact that not having a medical card would have on you and / or your family i.e.

- What is your medical condition?
- How long have you had it?
- How does it affect your day to day life and your health?
- What medication are you taking and what equipment do you need?
- Which specialist/consultant are you attending?
- When did you last see him/her and when will you next see him/her?
- Copies of letters of attendance/detailed medical reports?
- How much extra does it cost you to purchase the medication/ equipment and what impact does this have on your finances?
- The financial impact of not having a medical card on the family finances i.e. essential needs - clothing, food , housing, heating, nutrition
- Other factors such as addictions and poor money management

The HSE cannot assume to know your situation unless you truly provide as much information as possible to fully assess your application and condition. If your application is unsuccessful, you have a right to:

- Get a copy of your assessment under the Freedom Of Information legislation, free of charge
- Appeal the decision, clearly setting out any additional relevant information not already submitted
- Complain to the Ombudsman if you believe the HSE are not in compliance with their own assessment and procedures