

Emergency medical cards for terminally ill patients

Emergency Medical Cards can be issued by the HSE if:

- A patient has a terminal illness and has been told they have 24 months or less to live
- A patient is receiving end-of-life treatment
- A patient needs urgent ongoing care and needs a temporary medical card

Emergency Medical Cards for patients with terminal illness

The HSE will issue a medical card for patients with a terminal illness who have been told they have 24 months or less to live.

Your hospital consultant will send the HSE a completed application form (MC1t) stating that you have a terminal illness and have 24 months or less to live.

Your medical card number will be active on the system within 24 hours of your application being processed. This means that your GP, hospital staff and pharmacy can see your card active on their systems and you can access medical card services while you wait for your card. You will receive your card in the post within 10 working days.

This medical card will never expire.

Emergency Medical Cards for patients who are receiving end-of-life treatment

The HSE will issue a medical card immediately if you have a terminal illness and are receiving end-of-life treatment. This means you have been told you have less than 12 months to live.

Your social worker, hospital consultant or GP will send the HSE a medical report and a completed application form (MC1e).

Your medical card number will be active on the system within 24 hours of your application being processed. This means that your GP, hospital staff and pharmacy can see your card active on their systems and you can access medical card services while you wait for your card. You will receive your card in the post within 10 working days.

This medical card will never expire.

Emergency Medical Cards for patients who need urgent care

If you require urgent, ongoing care and need a medical card sooner than the normal processing time, the HSE may issue a temporary medical card for 6 months.

Your social worker, hospital consultant or GP will send the HSE a medical report and a completed application form (MC1e).

We won't give up until cancer does



Your medical card number will be active on the system within 24 hours of your application being processed. This means that your GP, hospital staff and pharmacy can see your card active on their systems and you can access medical card services while you wait for your card. You will receive your card in the post within 10 working days.

You will still need to apply for a standard means-tested medical card before your temporary card expires within 6 months. The HSE will write to you to remind you to do this.

The information above is an overview of the Emergency Medical Card.

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

Visit the [HSE](#) online.

- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker