



Information for Medical Treatment

A guide for people applying for a visa to seek medical treatment in New Zealand

Who should use this guide?

You should refer to this guide if you are travelling to New Zealand for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Introduction

All visitors wanting to travel to New Zealand for medical treatment require visas.

There are three main categories.

1. Those coming under the Medical Treatment Scheme, which is funded from New Zealand's Official Development Assistance Programme.
2. Those funded by their own government and after agreement between their local health authority and the service provider in New Zealand.
3. Those getting treatment or having a consultation on a fee-paying basis.

If you are in the first or second category, you will be advised on what procedures to follow by the health authorities in your home country. The rest of this leaflet mainly concerns people in the third category – that is, private patients.

If you are a private patient, you will need to provide evidence that you have been accepted for treatment.

You should note that appointments with specialists who are in private practice in New Zealand should be arranged by your own doctor in your home country. It is essential that your doctor gives the specialist full clinical details.

What do I need when I apply?

You will need to be able to meet normal visitor requirements (see the *Visitor Visa Guide (INZ 1018)*), and provide:

- a completed *Visitor Visa Application (INZ 1017)*
- a completed *Details of Intended Medical Treatment (INZ 1009)*

- written evidence of your acceptance for treatment (such as a letter from the appropriate New Zealand medical authorities to the health authority in your country)
- details of expected costs of your medical treatment
- evidence that you will be able to pay all medical costs.

Could my visa application be declined?

Your application will be declined if you do not meet normal visitor visa requirements.

It will also be declined if treating you:

- would be a public health risk
- would place severe stress on New Zealand's medical resources
- would disadvantage New Zealanders who require the same treatment.

You are also not eligible for a visa or for visa-free entry to New Zealand if:

- you have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more
- in the past 10 years you were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more
- you are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order or prohibition on entry
- you have been deported from any country
- you are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order
- you are believed to be associated with an organisation or group with criminal objectives and, for that or any other reason, to be a threat to the public interest or public order.

If your application is declined and you still want to come for medical treatment you will have to apply to the Minister of Immigration through the New Zealand diplomatic or consular office in your country for a special direction.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, provided that your friend or relation can meet normal visitor requirements.

How long can I stay to recover?

You will not be asked to leave New Zealand until it is safe for you to travel.

Where can I get more information and advice?

You can get more information about coming to New Zealand for medical treatment from:

- any Immigration New Zealand (INZ) branch office located onshore in Auckland, Henderson, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch. We also have overseas offices in Apia, Bangkok, Beijing, Dubai, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Manila, Moscow, Mumbai, New Delhi, Nuku'alofa, Pretoria, Shanghai, Suva and Sydney.
- New Zealand diplomatic and consular offices.

All INZ forms, leaflets, and information can be downloaded from our website, see www.immigration.govt.nz/forms.

- Customers in New Zealand can call the Immigration Contact Centre. Call toll free on 0508 55 88 55 excluding New Zealand public holidays.
- Overseas customers can call +64 9 914 4100 (international toll charges apply).
- Information about making online applications is available on our website www.immigration.govt.nz.