Brett Snelling,
Overseas Healthcare
The Pension Service
UK

Overseas.healthcare@thepensionservice.gsi.gov.uk

08/11/2009

Dear Brett Snelling,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Foreign Residents Association of Dalyan, a small town on the south west coast of Turkey.

I understand you may already have had a number of residents telephone you in an attempt to clarify their health care needs both in this country and the UK. I hope that by answering the questions in this email we will be able to post the information on our website thus reducing the number of enquiries you are receiving.

1. I understand, you have letters prepared for any person requesting one stating that the UK is no longer the provider of health care for that person? I should be grateful if you would also attach the piece of new legislation which has made this letter a requirement.
2. This letter is now required by anyone who wishes to join the Turkish insurance system, and that Turkish hospitals will not treat any person who belongs to their insurance system [either in their own right or as a spouse] unless they have a copy of the letter?

3. My understanding is that if foreign residents do not reside in the UK for 6 months or more in any one year they are not eligible for care under the NHS other than accident and emergency. Is this assumption correct?
4. If someone has been removed from their GPs list – either by informing them, or notifying the Inland Revenue you are no longer a UK resident, you may rejoin the health service as long as you have proof that you are returning to the UK permanently. Can you be clear what proof is required in this situation?

Yours sincerely,

Liz Chapple
[on behalf of Dalyan Foreign Residents Group]