

The SIP card, and the order nobody tells you

It does not arrive by post. Before the health centre there are two doors, and they open in an order.

1 · The papers to gather first

Get everything together before you start. Almost every step in this guide stops dead for one missing document, and starting again costs more than waiting a day.

- A valid padrón certificate: no padrón, no card, and it is the requirement most often missing.
- The document evidencing your entitlement: the INSS decision, the registered S1 form, or your European health card if you are on a temporary stay.
- A valid passport or identity document, and your NIE.
- The details of each family member to be included on the same card or registration.
- A phone number and an email: the appointment and the centre's messages come that way.

2 · The order to do things in

- 1 Get on the padrón first. The regional card hangs off it, and doing it the other way round is the number one reason people go home empty-handed.
- 2 Obtain recognition of your entitlement by your route: INSS, S1 or special agreement. The card does not create the right, it reflects it.
- 3 Book at the health centre that covers your address, with the padrón in hand.
- 4 Choose a family doctor, and a paediatrician if there are children: automatic assignment can leave you at a centre that is not yours.
- 5 Check the details on the card the day you get it: a misspelt surname complicates every prescription afterwards.

3 · The mistakes we see again and again

- Waiting until you need a doctor to apply. That is when it takes longest and goes worst.
- Thinking the European card replaces the SIP. They are different: one is for temporary stays, the other is your card in the system here.
- Applying for the SIP without being on the padrón. It is the prior requirement and there is no practical exception.
- Leaving the default doctor assignment unchecked. You discover it the day you have to walk there.
- Not updating the card when you move. The centre changes, and the appointments go to the old one.

4 · Where you can check it yourself

Official pages, checked on 22/09/2026. The administration changes its screens without warning: if something does not match, the official source wins, not this guide.

- **Conselleria de Sanitat, Generalitat Valenciana**

<https://www.san.gva.es/>

- **Seguridad Social (INSS), reconocimiento del derecho a la asistencia sanitaria**

<https://www.seg-social.es/wps/portal/wss/internet/Inicio/>

- **Ley 7/1985, el padrón como prueba de residencia**

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1985-5392>

- **Comisión Europea, Tarjeta Sanitaria Europea**

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=es>

If you would rather we did it

€89 the SIP card file and the appointment at the health centre

€69 the assignment or change of family doctor only

We are not a medical centre or an insurer: we do not book you a doctor, we do not comment on your health and we do not sell policies. The health administration grants the card, on its own conditions. If your situation does not give entitlement to the SIP, we say so before charging you.

A question? One message is enough

Write to us on WhatsApp at **+34 613 13 87 84** (wa.me/34613138784) and a person answers. Asking costs nothing and commits you to nothing.

Information guide, not legal or tax advice. contact@holaowners.com · holaowners.com