

No. 9585

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
BULGARIA**

**Medical Services Convention (with administrative protocol
and exchange of notes). Signed at London on 13
March 1968**

Authentic texts : English and Bulgarian.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
19 May 1969.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
BULGARIE**

**Convention relative aux prestations médicales (avec
protocole administratif et échange de notes). Signée
à Londres le 13 mars 1968**

Textes authentiques : anglais et bulgare.

*Enregistrée par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord
le 19 mai 1969.*

MEDICAL SERVICES CONVENTION ¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria ;

Being resolved to co-operate in the field of medical services ;

Affirming the principle that the people of one of the two countries should, as far as possible, be entitled to receive under the medical services legislation of the other country equal treatment with the people of the other country ;

Desirous of giving effect to this principle and of making arrangements for that purpose ;

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention—

- (a) " country " means, according to the context, the United Kingdom or the People's Republic of Bulgaria ;
- (b) " United Kingdom " means England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man ;
- (c) " competent authority " means :
 - (i) in relation to the United Kingdom, the Minister of Health, or the Secretary of State for Scotland, or the Minister of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man Health Services Board as the case may require ; and
 - (ii) in relation to the People's Republic of Bulgaria the Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare ;

¹ Came into force on 20 January 1969, i.e. the sixtieth day after the day (21 November 1968) on which the instruments of ratification were exchanged at Sofia, in accordance with article 7 (2).

(d) "medical services" means:

- (i) in relation to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, treatment and care under the State Health Services provided under the legislation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, excluding treatment at health resorts and spas; and
- (ii) in relation to the United Kingdom, treatment and care under the hospital and specialist services, the local authority health and welfare services, the General Medical and Dental Services, the Pharmaceutical Services and the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services, provided under the National Health Service legislation of the United Kingdom.

Article 2

(1) Subject to the provisions of the present Convention, a British subject or a British protected person, permanently resident in the United Kingdom, shall be entitled while in the People's Republic of Bulgaria to benefit from the medical services of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the same conditions as a Bulgarian citizen.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the present Convention, a Bulgarian citizen shall be entitled while in the United Kingdom to benefit from the medical services of the United Kingdom on the same conditions as a person who is permanently resident in the United Kingdom.

Article 3

The present Convention shall not apply to a British subject or a British protected person who goes to the People's Republic of Bulgaria or to a Bulgarian citizen who goes to the United Kingdom for the express purpose of benefiting under the present Convention.

Article 4

The competent authorities—

- (a) shall communicate to each other information regarding any measure taken by them for the application of the present Convention;
- (b) shall communicate with each other as soon as possible should any changes occur in legislation or regulations which significantly affect the nature or scope of the medical services provided under the present Convention;
- (c) shall furnish assistance to one another with regard to any matter relating to the application of the present Convention.

Article 5

Any disagreement relating to the interpretation or application of the present Convention shall be resolved by consultations between the competent authorities of the two countries.

Article 6

The administrative arrangements required for the application of the present Convention are set out in the annexed Administrative Protocol.

Article 7

(1) The present Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Sofia.

(2) The present Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

Article 8

The present Convention shall remain in force for a period of two years from the date of its entry into force. Thereafter, it shall continue in force for every following period of two years unless it is terminated before the expiry of any such two-year period by one of the countries giving three months' written notice of termination to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at London this 13th day of March, 1968, in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland :

George BROWN

For the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

д-р П. БУТОВ¹

¹ Petr Vutov.