

Embassy of India
Brussels

Subject: **Procedure to be followed by foreigners for taking medical treatment, who are on any type of visa other than Medical Visa.**

It has been noticed that foreign nationals who are already in India on valid visas are facing difficulties in taking medical treatment in the even of their falling ill during their stay in India and that they are being advised to get their visas converted into Medical visa before admitting them in hospitals/treatment centers. The matter was examined by the competent authority and the revised procedure in such cases has been laid down as given below:

Long Term Visa holders (Six months and more):

- (i) No conversion of visa is required, if a foreign national is suffering from minor medical condition which needs OPD consultation and does not need hospitalization and prolonged treatment.
- (ii) In case of sudden illness which requires continuous treatment of less than 180 days or the stay stipulation period, if any, stipulated on the visa, whichever is earlier, the foreigner shall approach the FRRO concerned and submit medical certificate issued from a Government/ICMR/NABH/ MCI/CGHS recognized hospital, mentioning the medical condition and recommendation for treatment along with the duration of treatment. A **“Medical Permit”** will be granted by the FRRO for limited duration i.e., less than 180 days or the stay stipulated, whichever is less, against a normal fee. Primary Visa remains valid for its normal duration after the period of treatment.
- (iii) Treatment exceeding 180 days, the primary visa may be converted into Medical Visa by the FRRO concerned and extended suitably after collecting necessary fee. In all such cases primary visa will be suspended.
- (iv) Dependent visa holders to the Primary visa holder need not be converted into Medical Attendant Visa but may be allowed by FRRO as Medical Attendant without converting the Visa to Medical Attendant Visa.
- (v) On acquisition of fitness certificate, the foreign national will be allowed to resume his/her activity as per the primary visa subject to approval of FRRO concerned. In such cases, Medical Visa will be re-converted to the primary visa by the FRRO concerned without changing the validity of the primary visa. This reconversion would be charged with fee required for grant of fresh primary visa as applicable.
- (vi) Responsibility of intimating the office of FRRO about the Medical treatment shall be with the foreign national/hospital concerned.

Subsequently, the hospital should convey details of the treatment to FRRO concerned through C-Form, wherever applicable.

(B) Short Validity Visa holders (up to 6 months or less):

In such cases, the procedure as prescribed in sub-para (A) will be applicable with following changes:

- (a) In the event of conversion of the short duration visa to Medical visa, the primary visa will be cancelled.
- (b) On acquisition of fitness certificate, the foreign national will be granted exit.

(C) Specific provisions relating to foreigners holding 'X-1' visa (person of Indian Origin and children of an Indian citizen/Person of Indian Origin/OCI cardholder and 'X-2' visa (spouse of an Indian citizen/Person of Indian Origin/OCI cardholder):

Foreign nationals falling in the above category may take treatment in hospitals for any duration without converting their visas to Medical visas or Medical Attendant Visas and without taking any specific permission from FRRO concerned.