

PARTNERS' NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2011

Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team



DWP



ORGANISING OXYGEN THERAPY



Every year Spain welcomes millions of British tourists who come in search of the sun and a relaxing break away.

And every year the Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team (PBHT) receive a number of queries from visitors who want to organise oxygen therapy while they are on holiday using their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

We have put together a guide of the steps customers should follow in order to organise oxygen in this way and this is now available on our website www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk. It is important to remember that a person must apply for oxygen therapy in writing to the Spanish authorities before coming on holiday.

So if you have family or friends visiting this year, who need oxygen whilst in Spain, make sure they know where to get the information they need.

ASK THE TEAM!

Working alongside Darryl, Lorna is the other half of the PBHT based in Malaga. Here she answers a few questions on working in Spain:

Why is it important to pay National Insurance (NI) contributions if I am working in Spain?

Your NI contributions count for a lot in Spain. By ensuring your employer registers you in the social security system and that you pay NI contributions, you will not only build up entitlement to a Spanish pension and benefits, but will also ensure you and any dependants are covered for healthcare in Spain. And remember, if you do want to apply for any benefit, apply through the Spanish authorities but mention you previously worked in the UK in order to access your full entitlement.

What if I am self-employed?

If you are self employed, you should register with the Tesorería General de la Seguridad Social (TGSS) as *autonomo* and pay your NI directly to them. You should also apply for any benefits through the Spanish authorities but remember, deregister when you stop work to avoid building up a debt with social security.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

If you are currently unemployed and looking for work, or would just like to know more about working in Spain, our website of the month, the official website of the State Employment Service, *el Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal*, might be for you.



When you enter www.sepe.es, look at the tabs at the top of the page. If you would like general information, have a look at the 'Working in Spain' guide (in English) under the 'Empleo y Formación' tab. If you are unemployed, why not check out the section 'Prestaciones', where you'll find information on the different unemployment benefits available, as well information on how to apply online.



British Consular
network,
Spain

The British Consular Network, Spain

BRITS IN SPAIN URGED TO PERSUADE GUESTS TO TAKE OUT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Overstaying their welcome? Drinking all your beer? Not paying for meals? Hosting friends and family from overseas can always cause stress, but potentially more serious and costly problems are avoidable – if residents remind guests to make simple travel preparations.

Many holiday makers look to save money by not taking out insurance. However, a lack of comprehensive travel insurance cover is a false economy and guests could face serious financial difficulty if they need medical treatment or lose valuable possessions.

Maria Leng, British Consul in the Canary Islands said: "When friends or family visit, it's natural for them to feel at ease and not prepare in the same way as they would for other holidays. But things can quickly become very stressful if your guests end up in a tricky situation and lack travel insurance. So if you're asking guests to bring out your favourite teabags or newspaper, ask them to get travel insurance as well, and save yourself and them from what can otherwise be difficult and expensive situations."

For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>



The Royal British Legion (TRBL)

'Shoulder to shoulder with all who Serve'



In last month's edition looked we looked at who is eligible as a beneficiaryso how can we assist our beneficiaries in Spain?

A number of the Legion's Poppy Support Services are available abroad (although some are in a limited capacity).

Benefits & Money Advice - Legion advisers are able to provide people with help and advice on reducing the burden of debt payment (debt with UK banks only) and financial management. Specialist Disability claims advice and tribunal representation is also available.

War Pension and Compensation - Specialist advisors can guide you through the War Pensions Scheme or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (Tribunals and Hearings will always have to be lodged and heard in the UK).

Immediate Needs Grant Scheme – if you have an urgent or unexpected need we might be able to help you get through a temporary crisis by providing grants (not cash) for the following:

- Food & Clothing
- Basic Funeral Costs
- Minor repairs and maintenance to property
- Mobility vehicles and other aids
- Repatriation travel costs (where there is a clear welfare need)
- Household appliances and furniture

Our grants cover a huge range of situations and we will consider individual needs in most situations so please do not hesitate to contact us.

However, we are unable to assist with the following:

- Repayment of business debts
- Legal expenses, like solicitor's fees and court costs
- Loans
- Medical care
- Help with care home fees
- When state assistance or statutory services are available

A HAPPY BENEFICIARY!

The Legion in Spain recently assisted an elderly housebound gentleman to purchase a mobility scooter he wrote, "My scooter is the best thing that has happened to me since I got my disability and I cannot thank enough, you and all at the Legion who have worked to get it for me... It is just great...!"



ACASA - Age Concern Acción Social y Asistencial



GOOD NEWS STORY

Mr & Mrs X had been living in the Alicante region for around 3 years. During this time Mr X's health deteriorated and the couple found they were no longer able to cope on their own. They first contacted SSAFA Forces Help UK who directed them to us here in Spain.

Our volunteer caseworker helped them look at all of the options available and, after they made the hard decision to go back to the UK, put them in contact with various charities.

After several weeks, the local authority managed to provide Mr & Mrs X with sheltered accommodation, which they are very pleased with. They say that they have a lovely housing manager and that the other residents are really nice full of fun and vary in age. Due to Mr X's army background, they also received financial help from SSAFA and the 2 regiments in which he served. In addition, as Mr X worked in the hospitality industry, Hospitality in Action gave them a fridge/freezer.

Mr & Mrs X would like to send a special message of thanks to the caseworker who helped them so much whilst they were in Spain.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



ACASA would like to thank the staff, parents and children of King's College, the British School of Alicante, who raised €500 to help us to provide a specialist service for older people and those with a services background.

Pictured above: Derek Laidlaw Headmaster, Angela Keay Secretary ACASA and pupils from King's College

ACASA has also been invited to be a Foundation Member of the British Chamber of Commerce Spain. At a recent event in Marbella, Jennie Thompson Vice President for the BCCS Andalucía, presented Sarah Rogers, Country Manager of **ACASA**, with a cheque for over €1,600 raised from a raffle and a Golf Tournament held earlier in the year.



Pictured above (L-R): Sarah Rogers & Jennie Thompson

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