

## A vibrant, abstract collage of medical and health-related icons. The composition features a variety of symbols including a DNA double helix, a heart, a stethoscope, a pill, a wheelchair, a syringe, a microscope, and various geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. The icons are arranged in a dense, overlapping manner, creating a sense of interconnectedness and complexity. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital, with a focus on clean lines and bright colors.

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# OBJECTIVE

This note provides information on the right to health of foreigners in Turkey with a tourist visa or residence permit.

# BENEFICIARY

The beneficiaries of this note are foreigners, primarily LGBTI+ people who are not Turkish citizens but who have a Turkish tourist visa or residence permit.



# DEFINING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



The World Health Organization's 1946 Constitution defined the right to health as "the right to the highest attainable standard of health." In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson stated that the right to health "require[s] governments and public authorities to put in place policies and action plans which will lead to available and accessible health care for all in the shortest possible time."

Health is considered an indispensable fundamental human right. It is protected under Article 56 of the 1982 Constitution of the Republic of Turkey ("Turkish Constitution"), which states, "Everyone has the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment."

**"the right to the  
highest attainable  
standard of  
health."**

# WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS PROVIDED UNDER A TOURIST VISA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH?

The Turkish government issues tourist visas for foreigners who wish to visit Turkey for the following purposes: touristic or official visits, business meetings, conferences, seminars, other meetings, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, sports events, and cultural and artistic events.

As can be construed from the definition of the tourist visa provided above, it exclusively grants the right to enter Turkey for touristic purposes. Foreigners who enter Turkey with a tourist visa have the right to benefit from the healthcare services that public and private hospitals provide for a fee. However, tourist visa holders cannot benefit from the healthcare insurance plan provided by the Turkish government for Turkish citizens.



# WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS PROVIDED UNDER A RESIDENCE PERMIT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RIGHT TO HEALTH?

Considering the reciprocity principle, foreigners who already possess a residence permit can apply to benefit from the general health insurance provided that they are not insured under the laws of the relevant foreign country and they have been in Turkey for more than a year.

Residence permit holders must submit an application to benefit from the general health insurance, which covers the treatment of diseases other than chronic diseases that existed before the date of enrollment to the general health insurance. Moreover, general health insurance coverage includes the spouse and children of the relevant foreigner.



# REFERENCES

## Regulations



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