

# Thousands of health workers to benefit from visa extensions

The UK government has decided to extend the visas of thousands of overseas health workers for free including doctors, nurses and paramedics which will cover healthcare professionals working in the NHS, and independent health and care sectors.

27 November 2020

**Please note: the information contained in this legal update is correct as of the original date of publication.**

The UK government has decided to extend the visas of thousands of overseas health workers for free including doctors, nurses and paramedics.

The extension will cover healthcare professionals working in the NHS, and independent health and care sector whose visas are due to expire between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced the one-year visa extension, will be free of all fees and charges for thousands of health professionals and their family dependants.

This decision is welcomed, as it means that doctors, nurses, paramedics, midwives, occupational therapists, psychologists and a range of allied health professionals will be able to continue their crucial work in the fight against coronavirus.

The announcement follows on from earlier in the year where the government offered free visa extensions for health professionals whose visas had been due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 1 October 2020.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

*"We recognise the huge contribution healthcare professionals from overseas are making across the UK in fighting the devastating impact of coronavirus."*

*"We truly value the work these heroes are doing, which is why we're renewing our free 12-month visa extension offer."*

*"We estimate this will benefit a further 6,000 dedicated frontline workers and their families who deserve our support and our gratitude."*

EU, EEA or Swiss nationals who are working in healthcare also have until 30 June 2021 to secure their immigration status after Brexit by applying to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

The full news story can be found [here](#).

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