



## **ELIGIBILITY PROTOCOL FOR FUNDED HEALTHCARE**

### **AS PER MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

To be entitled to subsidised healthcare in New Zealand the following rules apply:

- A two-year work visa which is continuous (hereafter referred to as ‘current visa’). This means that there are no breaks between visa issues - any renewed visa must continue from the expiry date of the previous visa issued. This also applies to anyone who has not lodged a new application even if a visa has been held for two years or more previously.
- If your application is at the Immigration Department for processing, you must contact them and ask for either an interim work visa or a letter stating that your new visa application has been lodged with the dates. We cannot contact them for you. Until we sight a letter or interim visa you are not entitled to subsidised health care and will be charged at full cost.
- The Rakaia Medical Centre requires a copy of a patient’s passport and visa to be held in the patient’s file.
- Student and visitor visas for people over 18 years of age are not eligible for subsidised healthcare.
- If a student or visitor visa has been held and an application is made for a work visa, the student and/or visitor’s visa can be added to the timeframe for the new work visa to make up the two-year entitlement.
- Children under 18 years of age are entitled to subsidised healthcare if a parent has a current visa.
- No person can use a partner’s current visa for subsidised healthcare. Each adult must have a personal work visa for no less than two years.
- If a wife does not have a current work visa and is pregnant, only her maternity care is subsidised.
- A child born in New Zealand is entitled to subsidised healthcare, as long as at least one parent has a current visa. However, the child does not become a New Zealand citizen because he/she has been born here.
- Children of immigrants are entitled to immunisations through the National Immunisation Register.
- If either a parent or the parents have a residency visa, each child must also have a residency visa of their own.
- Children born in New Zealand, to parents with residency, are New Zealand citizens if born after 2006.
- If a child’s parent is an eligible work visa holder, the child’s visitor and/or student visa does not need to be for two years.
- More than one dependent child is able to piggy back on a parent’s eligible visa.