



Ukrainian Cancer Patients in Switzerland

Asylum seekers from Ukraine who had to leave their country of origin because of the war can receive their necessary medical care in Switzerland. As a professional or private person, are you in medical consultation with people from Ukraine? Do you have questions about cancer therapies, medication or cancer in general? You can find the answers here.

Updated on May 10, 2022

This information is also available in German, French, Italian, Ukrainian and Russian at:

WWW.KREBSLIGA.CH

Is oncological care for people from the Ukraine ensured?

Oncological treatment costs are usually paid for by the compulsory basic health insurance. Then, how can I get insured here?

Case I

- I have submitted an application for S-Status at the Federal Asylum Centre or via RegisterME.
- I have been assigned to a canton.
- I am dependent on social assistance.

In this case, the canton where you reside will register you with a health insurance company. You will then be insured retroactively from the S-Status application date.

From this date, the Swiss Confederation pays the costs of the premiums, the deductible rate and the excess rate of the compulsory basic health insurance.

Case II

- I have submitted an application for S-Status to the Federal Asylum Centre or via RegisterME.
- I am not dependent on social assistance.





In this case, you must take out your own health insurance. You must do this within three months of submitting your S-Status application.

You will then be insured retroactively from the S-Status application date. You must pay the compulsory basic health insurance premiums, the deductible rate and the excess yourself.

Who should report to the Federal Asylum Centre?

As soon as a person in need of protection reports to one of the six federal asylum centres and submits an application for protection status S there, the person will be registered for compulsory health insurance by the canton retroactively to the date of application after cantonal allocation.

Federal Asylum Centres: **GERMAN / FRENCH / ITALIAN / ENGLISH**

What is important when someone is placed with a private person?

Persons seeking protection can stay in Switzerland for three months without a visa or permit and live with private persons. In this case, the person seeking protection is not subject to the compulsory health insurance and may be covered by private travel insurance or the costs must be borne privately. As soon as they have submitted the online application for temporary protection in Switzerland (protection status S), they have health insurance coverage.

The online application can be submitted via the website of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM: **GERMAN / FRENCH / ITALIAN / ENGLISH**

What happens when immediate medical assistance is needed?

If a person needs immediate medical assistance even before applying for protection status S and does not have health insurance, the Swiss public authorities will cover the costs.



COVID-19: Should cancer patients get vaccinated?

According to studies, people affected by cancer have a slightly increased risk of severe complications after a COVID-19 infection and also die more often from it than infected people without cancer. Accordingly, the Swiss Cancer League recommends that cancer patients be vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccines have been tested and are safe. They can prevent infections, serious progressions and death. Those affected by cancer should discuss the decision and the best time for a vaccination with their oncologist.

Patients undergoing immunosuppressive therapy can also be vaccinated. However, it is possible that they respond less well to the vaccination due to immunosuppression and cannot build up sufficient immune protection. Thus, they should definitely discuss a vaccination with their oncologist first.

Persons seeking protection from Ukraine can be tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms and can also be vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2. These services are paid for by the health insurance.

Vaccination is particularly important for Ukrainian people affected by cancer, as many refugees from Ukraine are currently living in very close quarters with many people.

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Germany offers an educational leaflet, written in Ukrainian, on COVID-19 vaccination: [DOWNLOAD](#)

Tips for Cancer Patients from the Swiss Cancer League

Cancer patients from Ukraine should contact a hospital or a medical practice as soon as possible after consulting with the competent authorities. There, they can clarify how their cancer treatment can be started or continued. This is especially true if the affected person does not register immediately after arrival.

If possible, cancer patients should be accompanied to the doctor by a person who can speak Ukrainian, as well as the respective national Swiss language (German, French, Italian). It is important to know, that here: health insurance does not usually pay for an interpreter. However, if professional interpreting is indispensable for the performance of a medical examination or treatment, as well as for its therapeutic success, and if the cancer patient(s) cannot provide an interpreter, these costs can be considered as part of the medical service. The Swiss Conference of Cantonal Health Directors recommends



that these costs be covered. However, whether the costs are actually covered in these cases must be first clarified in each individual case.

Counselling Services Provided by the Swiss Cancer League

The Swiss Cancer League's counselling and information service, "The Cancer Helpline" is available to those affected by cancer, their relatives and loved ones, as well as to professionals, and supports those who need advice by a personal conversation.

You can reach the Cancer Helpline's counselling team daily, from 9.00 to 19.00 hours. Counselling and advice are free of charge. We speak English, German, French and Italian.

- By Telephone: 0800 11 88 11.
- By E-mail at: HELPLINE@KREBSLIGA.CH
- By Chat from 9.00 – 16.00 hours: WWW.KREBSLIGA.CH/CANCERLINE
- By Skype from 9.00 – 16.00 hours: [@krebstelefon.ch](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/voice/@krebstelefon.ch)
- WWW.KREBSLIGA.CH/KREBSTELEFON

Would you like to receive counselling and advice in person, on site? The Swiss cantonal and regional cancer leagues offer counselling in English, German, French and Italian.

- WWW.KREBSLIGA.CH/REGION

Further Information

The Swiss Refugee Council provides useful information, also in Ukrainian and Russian languages, for those who are seeking protection: [GERMAN](#) / [FRENCH](#) / [ENGLISH](#)

The State Secretariat for Migration SEM provides important information: [GERMAN](#) / [FRENCH](#) / [ITALIAN](#) / [ENGLISH](#)

Embassy of Ukraine in Bern: [GERMAN](#) / [ENGLISH](#) / [UKRAINIAN](#) / [FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

