

Medical Card

If your sole income is a social welfare payment, such as the One Parent Family Payment, a Jobseeker's payment or a Disability Allowance then it is more than likely you will be eligible for a medical card.

If you are unemployed and receiving One Parent Family Payment for a minimum of 12 months (also applies to Jobseekers payments and Disability Allowance) and you return to work then you may be able to keep your Medical card for 3 years, however you must make a new application for your medical card.

Based on gross income (less tax, Universal Social Charge and PRSI):

Married couple/lone-parent with dependent children	€266.50
Allowance for each of first 2 children aged under 16	€38
Allowance for 3rd and each subsequent child under 16	€41
Allowance for each of first 2 children aged over 16 (with no income)	€39
Allowance for 3rd and each subsequent child over 16 (no income)	€42.50
Each dependent over age 16 in full time third level education without a grant	€78

There is also a reasonable allowance for travel to work expenses, child care costs and mortgage or rent payments although at present there is no definition of what these are. Maintenance payments are also allowable.

If your circumstances change you must inform the HSE as you may no longer be eligible. However, if you take up full-time employment you will retain your medical card for 3 years from the date you start work. If you take up part-time employment, the 3 year period starts from the date your income goes above the relevant medical card guideline. You do need to reapply for the Medical card, when you enter employment to state that you are applying on this basis.

If you have a child, for who you are receiving Domiciliary Care Allowance then you will be eligible for a medical card for the child, without a means test.

Client Registration Unit (postal applications)

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