

Northern Ireland (NI)	Republic of Ireland (RoI)
National Health Service (NHS) funds 90% of health care through government taxation.	Health care funded through a mixture of general taxation, social and private insurance and personal 'out of pocket' expenses.
Everyone has free access to hospital care and a family practitioner.	Hospital care is free of charge for all.
Charges for each prescription item are subsidised by the government.	Only those on the lowest income (approx 27%) have free access to a Family
Many people are exempted from payment for prescriptions for medical or social reasons.	Practitioner and to free prescriptions: these are classified as General Medical Services (GMS) patients.
Almost 90% of all prescriptions are dispensed free of charge.	Non-GMS patients must pay for visits to the family practitioner and practice nurse approx €35-50 per visit (£24-34) and for all prescriptions up to a value of €75 (£50) per month.
High Starfield score.*	Intermediate Starfield score.*

*\*The Starfield score reflects the strength of primary care in a country. (Starfield B. Primary care:*

*Balancing health needs, services and technology. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998).*