

Healthcare in Panama



Panama offers high-quality medical care, with modern facilities in Panama City and other hubs like Coronado and David. Many Panamanian doctors have studied in the U.S. and are able to communicate in English. Plus, standards at Panama's hospitals compare favorably with those in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Outside of the major hubs, smaller towns tend to boast clinics that offer basic services and are able to coordinate transfers to larger facilities nearby. Thanks to Panama's tiny size, you are unlikely to be more than an hour from a hospital or upscale clinic, no matter where in the country you live.

Private health insurance is much less expensive than in the U.S., in large part because doctor's fees and hospital visits are much cheaper. Prices for prescription drugs can be low in Panama, as well, because many manufacturers price them for the market. Plus, some drugs that require a prescription elsewhere are available over the counter in Panama...which means you don't need to pay to see a doctor and get a new prescription every time you want to buy them. If you do take medication regularly, check to make sure it is available in Panama. A great deal of U.S. and European medications are available, from Lipitor to Claritin to their generic counterparts, but there can be exceptions.